Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Where should the U.S. government build the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center?

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A slow-moving winter storm packing heavy, wet snow spreads over the Northeast.

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Philippine police arrest a suspected militant wanted in a string of kidnappings and killings.

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Pricey Comic
A comic book in which Batman makes his debut sells for more than $1 million.

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No monument funding, no council members yet

» Cost to build visitors center in CNMI or Guam to reach over $7M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior told the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife that funding for the construction and operation of a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitor facility—whether in the CNMI or Guam—will not be available anytime soon.

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Judge Munson bangs gavel for the last time

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Alex R. Munson, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, banged the gavel for the last time yesterday, slipping into retirement after serving on the bench for more than two decades.

When Munson banged the gavel at 3:15pm after adjourning a hearing in a fraud case—his last hearing in federal court—all of the court's staff and U.S. Probation Office, who were in court, stood up and clapped.

It was an emotional scene, with some court staff shedding tears as they cheered for their boss, who retired after serving the federal court since 1988.

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U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson poses with court staff and U.S. Probation Office personnel in his office Thursday afternoon. Munson retired yesterday after serving more than two decades in federal court.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Reyes slams Froilan over LB issues, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) slammed anew House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), this time over the speaker's plan to reassign and demote five employees of the Legislative Bureau and hire a new employee from outside.

Reyes, during a session yesterday

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LOVE ALL
Public school students take part in an anti-bullying parade to raise awareness on the ill-effects and prevention of bullying and harassment, from the American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan yesterday afternoon. ***(See story on Page 3)***
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

EPA sharply criticizes military's Guam plan

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency is sharply criticizing the military's plan to move thousands of Marines to the Pacific island of Guam, saying its failure to plan for infrastructure upgrades would lead to raw sewage spills and a shortage of drinking water.

Further, the agency said the military's plan to build a new aircraft carrier berth

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Volcano monitoring will target threats to Marianas. PAGE 2
85 students grace opening of mock trial tilt. PAGE 3

Local

Volcano monitoring will target threats to Marianas

Technology designed to detect nuclear explosions and enforce the world's nuclear test-ban treaty now will be pioneered to monitor active volcanoes in the Northern Mariana Islands near Guam. The island of Guam soon will be the primary base for forward deployment of U.S. military forces in the Western Pacific.

The two-year, $250,000 project of the U.S. Geological Survey and Southern Methodist University in Dallas will use infrasound—in addition to more conventional seismic monitoring—to "listen" for signs a volcano is about to blow. The plan is to beef up monitoring of lava and ash hazards in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth.

The archipelago's active volcanoes threaten not only residents of the island chain and the U.S. military, but also passenger airlines and cargo ships. The USGS project calls for installing infrasound devices alongside more traditional volcano monitoring equipment—seismometers and global positioning systems.

Scientists at SMU, which the USGS named the prime cooperator on the project, will install the equipment and then monitor the output via remote sensing. The project is a scientific partnership of the USGS, SMU and the Marianas government.

Infrasound hasn't been widely used to monitor volcanoes, according to noted volcano expert and SMU geology professor James E. Quick, who is project chief. Infrasound can't replace seismometers but may help scientists interpret volcanic signals, Quick said.

"This is an experiment to see how much information we can coax out of the infrasound signal," he said. "My hope is that we'll see some distinctive signals in the infrasound that will allow us to discriminate the different kinds of eruptive styles—from effusive events that produce lava flows, or small explosive events we call vulcanian eruptions, to the large 'Plinian' events of particular concern to aviation. They are certain to have some characteristic sonic signature."

SMU geologists in recent decades pioneered the use of infrasound to monitor nuclear test-ban compliance, and they continue to advance the technology. For the USGS project, they'll install equipment on three of the Marianas' 15 islands. In the event magma begins forcing its way upward, breaking rocks underground and ultimately erupting, seismometers will measure ground vibrations throughout the process, while GPS will capture any subtle changes or deformities in the surface of the Earth, and infrasound devices will record sound waves at frequencies too low to be heard by humans. Infrasound waves move slower than the speed of light but can travel for hundreds of miles and easily penetrate the earth as well as other material objects.

Nine Mariana Islands have active volcanoes. On average, the archipelago experiences about one eruption every five years, said Quick, who was previously program coordinator of the USGS Volcano Hazards Program.

Most recently a volcano erupted in 2005 on the island of Anatahan, the largest historical eruption of that volcano, according to the USGS. It expelled some 50 million cubic meters of ash, the USGS reported, noting at the time that the volcanic plume was "widespread over the western Philippine Sea, more than 1,300 nautical miles west of Anatahan." A volcano that erupted on the island of Pagan in 1981 has been showing many signs of unrest, Quick said.

Besides the USGS volcano project, SMU has been active in the Marianas through a memorandum of agreement to help the local government search for alternative energy sources, in particular geothermal.

The Marianas volcano project is part of a larger USGS program that is investing $15.2 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to boost existing monitoring of high-risk volcanic areas in partnership with universities and state agencies nationwide.

In targeting the Marianas, the USGS cited the evacuation of residents from the northern islands after the 1981 eruption on Pagan, as well as the threat to the main island of Saipan and to nearby Guam. A U.S. territory, Guam is expected to be home to about 40,000 U.S. military and support personnel by 2014, including 20,000 Marines and dependents redeployed from Okinawa. The Marines will use the island as a rapid-response platform for both military and humanitarian operations. The military also has proposed using the Northern Marianas for military exercises.

The USGS cited also the threat of volcanic ash plumes to commercial and military planes. Air routes connect Saipan and Guam to Asia and the rest of the Pacific Rim, as well as Northeast Asia to Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and New Zealand.

Worldwide from 1970 to 2000 more than 90 commercial jets have flown into clouds of volcanic ash, causing damage to those aircraft, most notably engine failure, according to airplane maker Boeing.

Volcanic ash plumes can rise to cruise altitudes in a matter of minutes after an eruption, Quick said. Winds carry plumes thousands of miles from the volcanoes, he explained, and then the plumes are difficult or impossible to distinguish from normal atmospheric clouds.

Monitoring by remote sensing allows USGS scientists to alert the International Civil Aviation Organization's nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers as part of ICAO's International Airways Volcano Watch program. The centers then can issue early warnings of volcanic ash clouds to pilots.

"Monitoring on the ground gives early warning when an eruption begins, as well as an indication that an eruption might be imminent," Quick said. "The contribution by the USGS and its university partners for volcano monitoring is to provide that earliest warning—or even a pre-eruption indication—that a volcano is approaching eruption so that the volcanic ash advisory centers can get the word out and alerts can be issued."

The USGS objective is for infrasound on Saipan, four seismometers on Anatahan, which currently has only one functioning seismometer, two seismometers on Sarigan, and GPS on Anatahan, Sarigan and Saipan.

Improved monitoring, Quick said, even might allow evacuated islanders to return to their homes—especially understandable for the island of Pagan, given its freshwater lakes, lush forests, black and white sand beaches and abundant fishing.

"A lot of people would like to move back, but it's considered unsafe absent monitoring," he said. "If we can establish monitoring networks on these islands, then I think it becomes more practical for people to think about returning. Properly monitored, one should be able to give adequate warning so that people could evacuate."

Quick is a professor in the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences as well as SMU associate vice president for research and dean of graduate studies at SMU. For more information see www.smuresearch.com.

SMU is a private university in Dallas where nearly 11,000 students benefit from the national opportunities and international reach of SMU's seven degree-granting schools.

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85 students grace opening of mock trial tilt

For the first time, organizer to confer Supreme Court professionalism award

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

About 85 students from nine public and private high schools on island graced the opening of the 12th annual CNMI High School Mock Trial competition at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe yesterday.

The number is a slight increase compared to last year's, which had eight school teams in competition.

Event coordinator Daniel C. Stafford said the champion team will represent the Commonwealth in the national mock trial competition that will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 6 to 9.

The Marianas Baptist Academy team emerged as the CNMI's overall champion in 2009. It competed with 53 teams in Atlanta last year.

Yesterday's preliminary rounds saw the participation of five private high schools and four public secondary schools. These included Calvary Christian Academy, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Rota High School, and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

Stafford revealed that for the first time in the history of the 12-year competition, a Supreme Court Professionalism Award will be conferred to the school team that exemplifies the guiding principles of advocacy—professionalism, courtesy and respect to judges, jurors, clients, and the justice system.

Competition organizers will also recognize individual performances of students through special awards: best prosecuting attorney, best defense attorney, best prosecution witness, and best defense witness.

Gift items and other consolation prizes await the competition runner-up teams and a cellular phone each awaits the best prosecuting attorney and best defense attorney, courtesy of a sponsor.

In yesterday's opening ceremony, students were addressed by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos is scheduled to address the crowd as they go on to the championship series today.

This year's competition resolve involves a felony murder case filed by the Commonwealth vs. Harley Hofschneider.

All teams are expected to demonstrate their abilities to defend their cases, for which they have been preparing for months.

The mock trial competition was founded by the late judge and justice Ramon G. Villagomez when he was president of the CNMI Bar Association, as a way to allow students to actively participate in one of the more challenging aspects of the democratic system of government.

According to Stafford, attorneys, judges and justices who participate in the event are all volunteers.

The mock trial programs are designed to give students an inside perspective on the legal system, providing them an understanding of the mechanism through which society chooses to resolve many of its disputes.

Participation in the program provides students with a practical knowledge about how the legal system operates. It is also an opportunity for high school students to develop their advocacy and public speaking skills, understand the law, develop teamwork and meet the demands of the academic competition.

Among the sponsors of this year's contest are the Joeten Charitable Foundation, Pacific Trading Co., Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Palms Resort, Saipan World Resort, TopNotch, IT&E, J's Restaurant, McDonald's, National Office Supply, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, and a number of individual sponsors.

Man indicted for illegal importation of pesticides

A federal grand jury has indicted Bo Hu Li on two counts of alleged importation of undeclared pesticides from China.

The first indictment charges Li with reckless violation of the Federal Aviation Act by causing the pesticide Lannate (methomyl), a hazardous material, to be transported in air commerce in violation of law. This offense carries a maximum prison term of five years and a fine of up to $250,000.

The second indictment charges Li with willful violation of the Hazardous Material Law, which carries a maximum prison term of five years and a fine of up to $250,000.

Assistant United States Attorney Beverly R. McCallum is prosecuting the case. The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Divisions of Environmental Quality and Customs.

Leonardo M. Rapadas, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, reminded the public that the indictment is only an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. ***(PR)***

Fitial brings economic concerns to Obama, Biden

During his recent trip to the nation's capital to attend the National Governors Association winter meeting, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had the opportunity to meet with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House.

Along with the nation's governors, Fitial met with Obama for more than four hours on Sunday morning covering topics including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as the national healthcare plan. During their meeting, the nation's governors were able to share their ideas and concerns regarding healthcare within each of their respective jurisdictions. The national healthcare debate was the forefront of the NGA's agenda, with the opening address being delivered by first lady Michelle Obama.

Fitial also sat with Biden and took the opportunity to discuss the Commonwealth's concerns pertaining to its struggling economy and the issues surrounding federalization. Biden was seen taking notes of Fitial concerns and informed the governor that he will look into the situation of the CNMI. Fitial also invited the Vice President to visit the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I had a very healthy discussion with Vice President Biden and I extended an invitation for him to visit our islands as it has been 25 years since we were last visited by a sitting U.S. Vice President," said Fitial referring to former President George H.W. Bush's visit when he was vice president to then President Ronald Reagan.

As a member of the NGA's Natural Resources Committee, Fitial was also able to meet with Energy Secretary Steven Chu regarding the implementation of the ARRA funding. Addressing issues such as NEPA requirements, the Buy America Provisions, and the Davis-Bacon Act, which have served as obstacles for the timely implementation of the ARRA funds throughout the nation, were among the topics covered. Chu and the governors also discussed the U.S. Department of Energy's focus on alternative energy sources.

"My time in Washington has been well served. Not only does the NGA venue allow access to the nation's senior leadership to address issues impacting our local community, but it includes the CNMI, as well as the other insular areas, in national discussions and allows us to address our unique concerns relative to those discussions," said Fitial.

Fitial, along with Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, attended the NGA meeting events and met with various federal agencies, including the US Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Insular Affairs.

For his part, Ada addressed many of the ARRA related concerns with agencies, including the US Department of Energy and the CNMI designated Special Purpose Entity, One Economy, regarding the CNMI's application for the Broadband Mapping grant funding through the National Telecommunication and Information Administration.

"The Broadband Mapping grant application is anticipated to bring roughly 70 jobs relative to the development and execution of a Broadband Mapping survey. This work will be carried out through the CNMI Department of Commerce, which will hire upwards of 70 temporary workers at significantly high wage rates to conduct the survey work funded under the ARRA Broadband Mapping funds," said Ada. ***(PR)***

NMI seeks to host US Coral Reef Task Force

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial voiced his continued support for coral reef conservation in the CNMI when he spoke before the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, in Washington D.C.

The meeting was attended by U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dennis Hightower and co-chaired by DOI Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta and NOAA's Andrew Winer. Task Force members included the governors of Guam and American Samoa and 12 federal agencies.

Fitial remarked on local work to address climate change, land-based sources of pollution and fisheries. He also took the opportunity to announce the CNMI's plans to host the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in the fall of this year.

The Governor discussed the CNMI's continued support for climate change discussions, and improved management of resources in light of the heightened potential for mass coral bleaching events. He highlighted the ARRA funding received for road and drainage improvements while reducing soil erosion and sediment runoff at Laolao Bay. Fitial also emphasized that the CNMI has placed high priority on developing management plans for the CNMI's marine protected areas.

Fitial expressed hope that the Task Force will support the CNMI's push to meet specific deadlines imposed on the responsible federal agencies with respect to confirming Advisory Board members, development of a management plan and building a CNMI visitor's center for the Marianas Trench Monument.

Regional efforts involving the CNMI, such as the Roadways Resolution and the Micronesia Challenge were also referenced by Fitial.

"The CNMI supports the Roadway Resolution introduced by Gov. Tulafono at the Task Force meeting in Puerto Rico, calling for collaboration amongst federal agencies to develop the best management practices in roadway designs, storm water management, and impervious surface construction," said Fitial. "This will help island jurisdictions to minimize negative impacts to our coral reef ecosystems."

The Micronesia Challenge has proven to be more than a conservation effort in terms of the environment. "It is a commitment to preserve our unique cultures and the island way of life in the face of rapid environmental, social and technological change," Fitial said.

He cited the importance of invasive species analyses underway across Micronesia through the Biosecurity Plan led by Micronesian Chief Executives and the Department of Defense.

Moreover, Fitial expressed the need for the Task Force's engagement in national efforts, specifically the Ocean Policy Task Force and the petition to list 83 coral species as endangered or threatened, 75 of these exist in the Pacific.

In concluding his remarks, Fitial invited Task Force members to come to the Fall Task Force meeting on Saipan, with a field trip to the island of Pohnpei.

Fitial was accompanied by Fran Castro, Coral Reef Point of Contact and Sylvan Igisomar, Director of Fish and Wildlife. ***(PR)***

Hundred-plus PSS students rally vs bullying

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over a hundred students, mostly from public secondary schools, gathered yesterday at the American Memorial Park for the Public School System's first educational campaign against bullying on campus.

Led by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, the students paraded to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, carrying placards that express their opposition to bullying.

Schools that participated included Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Junior High, Hopwood Junior High and some elementary schoolchildren.

According to Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, PSS intends to continue the activity and would designate a month-long educational campaign in 2011.

Barcinas and Marianas High School teacher Rosalyn Ajoste are convinced that bullying is still rampant in many schools, affecting the academic performance of students.

The Board of Education had already adopted an anti-bullying policy but Barcinas and Ajoste believe that it needs to be strictly enforced in schools.

PSS has designated this week as anti-bullying week in all campuses.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of Hopwood Junior High School students lined up along the San Antonio road, rallying public support for their campaign. Skits and dances related to bullying were also shown to students on campus.

Studies and researches reveal that, without intervention, bullying behavior persists over time. Many believe that a child who is a bully in kindergarten is often a bully in elementary, high school and beyond.

Experts have shown that career bullies are not only slightly more likely than their peers to serve prison time as adults, they also tend to suffer from depression.

Ex-convict faces more charges for possession of 3 guns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government filed charges yesterday against a suspected member of an "ice" trafficking group for alleged possession of three guns last year.

The indictment charged Roque S. Norita with three counts of a felon in possession of a firearm.

Norita, 41, appeared in court with court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline. He pleaded not guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the jury trial for May 3, 2010, at 9am.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto represented the U.S. government in the case.

According to the indictment, Norita was found in possession of a Colt AR-15 rifle on Feb. 20, 2009, a rifle of Japanese manufacture on Sept. 17, 2009 and a .223 Caliber Armalite Model M15-A2 rifle in March or April 2009.

In those periods, the indictment said, Norita had already been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

Norita has a pending "ice" trafficking charge in federal court. Last December, the court vacated the scheduled Jan. 5, 2010, jury trial to allow him more time to prepare.

The new trial date was set for March 1, 2010.

The CNMI/Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force agents believe that Norita and two other persons were members of an "ice" trafficking group in Tanapag.

EMO warns of US military training

The Emergency Management Office warned yesterday that the U.S. Navy would be conducting military training at Warning Area-517 on March 2 and 3 from 9am to 4pm.

The general location of this activity will be at W-517, an irregular polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extend south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa and Galvez Bank.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos is advising CNMI residents, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to take precautionary measures around this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211. ***(PR)***

EPA

From Page 1

at the U.S. territory's Apra Harbor would result in "unacceptable impacts" to 71 acres (28 hectares) of a high quality coral reef.

The EPA outlined the criticisms in a strongly worded six-page letter to the Navy regarding a draft environmental impact statement by the military.

"The impacts are of sufficient magnitude that EPA believes the action should not proceed as proposed and improved analyses are necessary to ensure the information in the EIS is adequate to fully inform decision makers," the EPA said.

The military's Joint Guam Program Office said it was evaluating all comments it received on its environmental study and was committed to working with the EPA and other federal agencies to find solutions.

"The issues raised by EPA regarding the potential impacts to Guam from the military buildup are consistent with what we have heard from Guam's leaders, local agencies and the public," the military office said in an email statement to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The military plan includes moving 8,600 Marines, and 9,000 of their dependents, to Guam from Okinawa, Japan. Washington and Tokyo are jointly paying for the transfer, which is designed to reduce the U.S. military's large footprint on densely populated Okinawa.

The letter said that at its peak, the change is expected to boost the Pacific territory's population by 79,000 people, or 45 percent, over the island's current 180,000 residents. The figure includes large numbers of construction workers that will have to move to Guam to build the new facilities.

The EPA's letter, dated Feb. 17, was first reported by the Pacific Daily News on its Web site Thursday Guam time.

Specifically, the EPA said the military's plan would lead to the following problems:

■ A shortfall in Guam's water supply, resulting in low water pressure that would expose people to water borne diseases from sewage.

■ Increased sewage flows to wastewater plants already failing to comply with Clean Water Act regulations.

■ More raw sewage spills that would contaminate the water supply and the ocean.

Regarding coral reefs, the EPA said the military underestimated the effect the aircraft carrier berth would have on a resource that currently provides essential habitats for fish and endangered sea turtles and that supports commercial and recreational fishing.

REYES

From Page 1

morning, told his colleagues that Tenorio has shown "blatant disrespect to the members of the Senate" by reassigning a Senate staffer to his own office without consulting with the Senate, among other things.

"He thinks he is still the governor. I think somebody has to inform the speaker that he's no longer the governor," Reyes added.

Tenorio's office said yesterday the speaker does not want to comment on Reyes' statement.

Reyes is the husband of Legislative Bureau director Glenna Reyes, whom Tenorio wanted removed in January but did not succeed.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), who has to concur with the House speaker on the appointment or termination of the Legislative Bureau director, had said that Glenna Reyes' existing contract should be honored. Her contract is valid until Sept. 30, 2010.

Pete Reyes said all Tenorio has to do is read the Constitution about the need for the Senate and House leadership concurrence on the firing and hiring of the bureau director, among other things.

"I'm only a high school graduate…I grew up through experience and he is an engineer," said Reyes, adding that it is interesting to note that Tenorio could not correctly interpret the Constitution.

He said Tenorio's "errors are so unreal."

"It's not about who the director of the Legislative Bureau is, but it's about lawmakers not interfering with each other's [functions]," he said.

On Feb. 16 and 18, Tenorio issued memos to Glenna Reyes informing her of the demotion, reassignment and hiring of legislative employees.

Reyes, in response, declined Tenorio's requests, saying they are intrusive, a political interference and pressure, unconstitutional, and will result in additional financial burden to the bureau.

Tenorio also asked Glenna Reyes to transfer Senate journal clerk Victoria T. Guerrero, an employee of the Legislative Bureau, to the speaker's office to serve as his special assistant.

Guerrero, who has since turned in her resignation, was at the Senate session yesterday.

Manglona, during the session, said, "We will not allow anyone to take our journal clerk…however, she decided to resign."

The Senate president thanked Guerrero for her service, and turned to his colleagues, asking them to continue focusing on issues and thanking them for being professional.

The speaker also advised Glenna Reyes of his appointment of Troy S. Taisakan, a non-Legislative Bureau employee, as House sergeant-at-arms, demoting long-time House sergeant-at-arms Pedro O. Towai as assistant sergeant-at-arms.

Tenorio also advised Glenna Reyes of his appointment of his own office staffers—Geraldine T. Cruz and Elizabeth C. Manglona—as assistant clerks, and for the transfer of their positions and salaries to the Legislative Bureau.

Cruz and Manglona, as well as the Senate journal clerk, are to take charge of the transcription and construction of the House journals, said the speaker. He also advised Reyes that he transferred the House journal clerk, also a bureau employee, to the Senate to handle Senate journals.

Pete Reyes said Tenorio has chosen to focus his attention to issues that are not helping the general public, including issues of better health, safety and education services.

"He is creating an atmosphere of animosity between the House and Senate… His attention on different issues and not on the need of the public is evident and it's embarrassing," he added.

Manglona, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he is working with the Senate counsel in drafting a bill that will clarify the non-political nature of the Legislative Bureau.

JUDGE

From Page 1

The 68-year-old Munson told his staff that he would come around shortly to talk to everybody.

Munson will leave Saipan today, Saturday, after a 27-year stint on island, to join his wife Kathy in Idaho.

Saipan Tribune later saw Munson enter the office of K. Lynn Lemieux, his courtroom deputy for 15 years, and offered her a garland.

Lemieux broke into tears as she hugged the teary-eyed judge.

Munson has been in the CNMI for 27 years. He arrived on Saipan Sept. 1, 1982 to serve as chief justice of the High Court of the Trust Territory.

He succeeded Alfred Laureta, who was the first Territorial District Judge for the District Court of the NMI from 1978 to 1988.

Galo L. Perez, who has been the clerk of court for 18 and a half years, said he is sad but at the same time happy about Munson's retirement.

"He has served for more than two decades. I'm happy for him to have done that," Perez told *Saipan Tribune.*

Perez said Munson's more than two decades of serving the court despite not being from the CNMI reflects his dedication to the Commonwealth.

"It will leave a good impression on a lot of people. He's really an endangered specie," the clerk of court said.

Perez said Munson is easy to interact with.

"If you know him, he is very caring. He would always ask me how's everything, how's everybody doing. He's always very concerned. He treats us like his children," Perez said.

MONUMENT

From Page 1

The White House's Fiscal Year 2011 budget submission, for example, does not contain funding for the Marine Monument pursuant to a presidential proclamation in January 2009.

Eileen Sobeck, deputy assistant secretary for the Interior's Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said an average-sized multipurpose facility in the U.S. mainland costs about $7 million.

But she said the cost of building a Marine Monument visitors center either in Guam or the CNMI would likely be higher because of shipping costs to the islands. Operational funding would also be higher in the CNMI or Guam than in the U.S. mainland.

Sobeck was one of those who testified in the Subcommittee's Feb. 25 hearing on CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 3511, which calls for a monument visitors center to be built in the CNMI, and Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo's H.R. 4493, which seeks a center in Guam.

But Sobeck said Interior has no objection to H.R. 3511 and H.R. 4493.

Opposition

The Friends of the Monument, a key proponent of the monument declaration, wants the visitors center to be built in the CNMI, not Guam.

"H.R. 4493 would take the social, educational and economic benefits promised to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and turn them over to Guam," Agnes McPhetres, vice chair of the Friends of the Monument, said in her testimony.

When asked by Subcommittee member Rep. Rob Wittman of Virginia, Sobeck said she has "no precise answer" as to where the Marine Monument visitors center be built but said there are criteria in selecting the site.

She said the allocation of funding for the construction of a center is based on the number of competing factors, and the proposed project would need to be added to the current list of proposed projects and compete with existing projects before moving forward.

Bordallo, who chairs the Subcommittee, told CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial about the lack of funding for the monument center.

"I have been advised that funding may not be a reality for some time. I just want to point that out from the beginning," Bordallo told Fitial right after reading his three-page testimony on the two bills.

Presidential Proclamation 8335 assigned management responsibility of the Marine Monument to the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Commerce secretary. The secretary of the Interior delegated his management responsibility for these areas to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Hopefully someday we will realize this project… It's all about funding in Washington," Bordallo added.

In adjourning the hearing, Bordallo said the CNMI and Guam "can work together on this."

"There's no need for one area over another or any name calling or whatever is occurring," she added.

'No progress'

Fitial said in his testimony that "no significant progress has been made to date" on the planning and funding of the Marine Monument visitors center.

Bordallo asked Sobeck about the delay in the formation of a Marianas Monument Advisory Council.

Under the presidential proclamation that established the Marine Monument on Jan. 6, 2009, such council should be formed three months from the date of the proclamation.

"Yet 13 months have passed and I'm still not aware of the convening of the Advisory Council. What's the status of the formation of the Marianas Monument Advisory Council?" Bordallo asked Sobeck.

Sobeck said the change in the White House administration and the change in nominees have been delaying the council's formation, but said they're now working on establishing the council.

Sablan said Sobeck's statement made it clear that it's the federal government and not the CNMI that delays the council formation.

Just days after the presidential proclamation, Fitial submitted to Committee on Environmental Quality chairman James Connaughton his nomination of Benigno M. Sablan, Joaquin P. Villagomez and Sylvan O. Igisomar to the Marianas Monument Advisory Council.

Sablan recognized the presence of Igisomar at the Subcommitee's hearing in Washington, D.C.

Solbeck said the USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will soon jointly publish a Notice of Intent to prepare a Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment in the Federal Register.

'Put deadlines'

Fitial recommended the inclusion of specific deadlines in future legislation to ensure the project moves forward in an expeditious manner.

"I also encourage the subcommittee to consider including language that requires the completion of an engineering design by 2012 and construction by 2013. The inclusion of these details is important to show without further question, the federal government's efforts to bring forth results on their promises to the people of the CNMI," Fitial said in his testimony.

The Marine Monument spans over 480 miles and incorporates approximately 95,216 square miles within three units in the Mariana Archipelago to conserve some of the nation's most unique and pristine marine environments, including the Challenger Deep, the greatest known depth in the world's oceans.

The vast majority of the monument is located in the waters surrounding the CNMI, including its three northernmost islands of Uracas, Maug and Asuncion

Equal stakeholder

Sobeck and Fitial separately spoke in favor of ensuring that Guam is an equal stakeholder in the implementation and future management of the Marine Monument.

Bordallo, in a statement, said she supports Sablan's bill, H.R. 3511, as both of their bills "would seek to ensure that visitors to and residents of Guam and the CNMI are educated about the rich biodiversity and vibrant ecosystem in the waters surrounding our islands."

"The testimony provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed the difficult budget environment we are faced with and the challenges in developing a management plan for the monument. I look forward to working with the federal agencies and stakeholders in Guam and the Northern Marianas to ensure that our Marianas Trench Marine National Monument planning moves ahead for the benefit of our communities," she said.

Evangeline Lujan also testified on behalf of Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho. In her testimony, she said Guam supports efforts for a seat on the advisory council with the Interior and Commence in the development and implementation of the management plan and regulations.

Dr. Nancy Knowlton, Sant Chair in Marine Science from the Smithsonian Institution, spoke on the unique value of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

CUC sets power outage for maintenance work

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage today to make necessary repairs to the electrical system. The power outage is required to ensure the safety of the linemen.

Today's power outage will last from 7:30am through 10:30am and will affect the second partial Feeder 4, which includes portions of Capital Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden).

This is part of the ongoing maintenance effort and will entail the replacement of 81 deteriorated pole top pins along with other pole hardware.

"This outage is required so the linemen can safely address the main primary lines to the Kagman Homesteads. In addition, a defective ABS switch at the Kagman Mobil Gas Station will also be removed and replaced with a SCADA switch. Then the primary line will be re-energized and the line crew will focus on laterals throughout the remainder of the day and will only interrupt power to the respective laterals to perform the necessary repairs," CUC said.

Extensive corrosion as a result of exposure to the elements requires these replacements to reinforce the circuit. Because of the consistent ocean salt spray in the Kagman area, the new replacement pole top pins are constructed with fiberglass shafts and are expected to be more dependable under the conditions.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience the power interruptions may impose on the community and our customers and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," CUC said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NMC retains law firm to help resolve issues facing college

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Interior photo of Cabot Mantanona LLP law firm based in Guam.

The Northern Marianas College announced yesterday that it has retained the law firm of Cabot Mantanona, LLP, to assist in bringing resolution to urgent, legal matters facing the college.

Cabot Mantanona possesses a broadbased practice with specialties in government and business litigation, higher education representation, and federal claims (Title VII). The firm also has extensive experience in financial services, real estate, probate, and other areas of law.

"The Law Firm of Cabot Mantanona has successfully represented many of the region's companies and organizations," said Lorraine T. Cabrera, NMC interim president. "Their experience in representing institutions of higher education like the Guam Community College and the University of Guam is especially advantageous to NMC." ***(PR)***

Woman gets 4-day term for hitting husband with stick and handsaw

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a four-day prison term on a woman who was accused of hitting her husband with a stick and a handsaw.

Evelynn Mendiola Torres, 35, signed an agreement with the government, pleading guilty to one count of the lesser included offense of assault and battery.

Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Torres to one year in prison, all suspended except for four days and gave her 10 hours credit when she was arrested.

The judge ordered the defendant to start serving her prison term on March 16, 2010, at 5pm. She will be released after 86 hours in prison.

Torres will be placed on one year of supervised probation. She will be required to perform 25 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim.

Wiseman also ordered Torres to pay a $100 fine, a $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

A review hearing to determine whether Torres has complied with the sentence has been set for Aug. 11, 2010, at 9am.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Torres with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon for allegedly repeatedly hitting the victim with a stick and a handsaw on June 23, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

APPEAL FOR HELP
Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho addresses the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force at their 23rd annual meeting, and asked members to support the Guam Military Buildup Program with assistance in permitting certain projects and mitigation for the loss of resources affected by those projects.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo competition: Changing climate and Pacific fisheries

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community needs your eye and talent to create awareness and help ensure the Pacific region can continue benefiting from the wealth of its fisheries. Changes in the climate can be expected to affect our lives as they alter life underwater. Your best pictures can help illustrate a book that compiles the work of 70 scientists over the last two years. The winner receives $1,000!

Many of us make a living from the fish our waters bountifully provide, while visitors come from around the world to admire the splendor of our tropical seabed. Fish is the cornerstone of food security in the Pacific, and fisheries and aquaculture represent a significant share of the gross domestic products of many Pacific Island countries.

Yet worldwide, emissions of carbon dioxide are affecting the climate, and driving changes to the oceans. For example, increases in water temperature are projected to alter currents, strengthen storms, degrade the coral reefs fish depend on, and increase risks of fish and shellfish diseases. Some fish species are likely to move to other waters, some may adapt; others will probably disappear.

How will this affect us? How do we adapt and plan ahead?

SPC is compiling a comprehensive analysis titled 'Vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific to climate change'. It will describe the projected changes to the atmosphere and ocean, assess the impact of these changes on the ecosystems that support fisheries (ocean food chains, coral reefs, coastal and freshwater habitats), evaluate the consequences for the abundance and distribution of fish and shellfish, identify the implications for local economies and food security, and recommend measures to enable communities and industry to adapt.

ON THE NET

■ SPC's photo competition webpage http://www.spc.int/corp/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=498&Itemid=1 for details.

Have you seen it?

No doubt many of you are noticing the effects of climate while diving on the reef, out at sea fighting the storm, fishing in the river, or on the shrimp farm. SPC's publication will be a peer-reviewed scientific document, intended for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as a manual with practical solutions for the Pacific Community. To highlight the key issues, SPC needs your best pictures.

The winning photograph will be used for the cover of the book and the winner will be awarded USD 1,000. This picture should emphasize the effects of climate on oceanic or coastal fishing activities. Priority will be given to photos with people actively fishing, and with fish in the image.

Another 30 to 40 photographs are needed for the book—excellent images of Pacific fisheries activities (people catching and selling fish and shellfish, fish processing plants, fish farms, fishing boats) as well as the fish and their various habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, sea grasses, rivers, lakes). Photographers can send as many images as they wish and will receive USD 100 for each selected picture to be used freely by SPC (with the name of the photographer credited).

Photographs must be sent by email by April 30, 2010 to photo_comp@webmail.spc.int. Competition conditions and image specification details are available via the SPC website link above. The winner will be declared on the SPC Web site on May 17, 2010 and profiled on the Web site later that month. ***(SPC)***

A. Samoa gets $1.2M post-tsunami recovery aid

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced yesterday that the department is providing $1.2 million in special assistance to the government of American Samoa for post-tsunami disaster recovery projects.

"The federal government responded to this catastrophe with a full, swift and aggressive assistance program and continues to assist the American Samoa people by providing the resources necessary to recover," Salazar said. "We keep those who have lost so much in our thoughts and prayers, as we provide the funds, technical assistance and federal program resources that will not only care for those affected by this tragic event but also better prepare American Samoa to deal with future natural disasters."

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed the grant award that provides $340,000 that will enable the American Samoan Department of Human and Social Services to establish a comprehensive, long-term mental health system for tsunami victims.

Additionally, $860,000 will assist in a collaborative effort with the University of Hawaii to complement, strengthen and sustain disaster recovery initiatives and improvements and establish an electronic system for safeguarding employee records and data.

These funds are in addition to the government operation and economic development funds the department provides the American Samoa government, enabling it to offer a wide-array of easily accessible services for residents of American Samoa.

"Coupled with the leadership of Governor Togiola and the great resilience of the people of American Samoa, Federal support has helped the island emerge stronger and better prepared for any future disaster," said Babauta. "I am pleased that Interior can be part of this recovery effort."

A magnitude 8.3 earthquake occurred about 100 miles southwest of American Samoa on Sept. 29, 2009. The quake struck about 33 kilometers below the seabed but rocked the island and generated several tsunami flood surges that came ashore, flooding low-lying villages, roads, homes, and other structures.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency activated its National Response Coordination Center, as well as its Regional Response Coordination Center to support American Samoa people as they responded to the earthquake and tsunami. Working closely with the US Coast Guard, FEMA, which had provisions pre-positioned in Hawaii, deployed an Incident Management Assistance Team as well as a Planning and Response Team to provide support and on the ground assessment as resources were deployed to areas needing immediate assistance. ***(DOI)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Italy's harmful conviction of Google

In September 2006, four students at a school in Turin, Italy, beat and humiliated an autistic classmate. A fifth student captured the incident on her cellphone camera, then posted the digital footage to Google Video. It spent two months as one of the site's most popular clips before Google took it down at the request of Italian police.

The attackers were convicted and ordered to perform 10 months of community service; the girl who recorded the beating was convicted too, and given a similar penalty. But that wasn't enough for Italian authorities. On Wednesday, a court in Milan convicted three Google executives of violating the victim's privacy and sentenced them to six months in jail. Judge Oscar Magi suspended the sentence and imposed no financial penalty, so the conviction has little practical effect on the three executives. The implications for the Internet, however, are enormous and chilling.

One reason the Internet is so transformative is that companies such as Google have built platforms that anyone can use to distribute works and products. They radically lower the barriers to entry into the markets for information and entertainment, promoting both speech and commerce. That's in sharp contrast to traditional media companies, which typically exist to publish or broadcast just the works in the portfolios they control. But because some of the new online platforms don't screen material before it's exposed to the public, bad things inevitably happen.

The choice, though, is between a system that pushes online companies to respond quickly and fairly to complaints about videos after they're posted, and one that compels them to become gatekeepers. Lawmakers in the United States and the European Union have opted, correctly, for the former approach. But there has been growing pressure from a variety of aggrieved parties—companies and individuals claiming to have been defamed or bullied, entertainment conglomerates and luxury brands fighting piracy—to force the Googles of the world to police their sites and block disputed material before it draws a complaint, or even before it's posted. Magi's ruling, unfortunately, is a victory for that side. It could prevent start-ups with open platforms from competing with the likes of Google (and Facebook and eBay) while forcing the incumbents to reduce the flow of material onto their sites.

By convicting Google executives for violating privacy with a video they did not make or post online, Magi undermined the message that prosecutors sent to the youths who did. The right lesson should have been that the Internet gives people great power, and those who misuse it will bear the responsibility—all of it.

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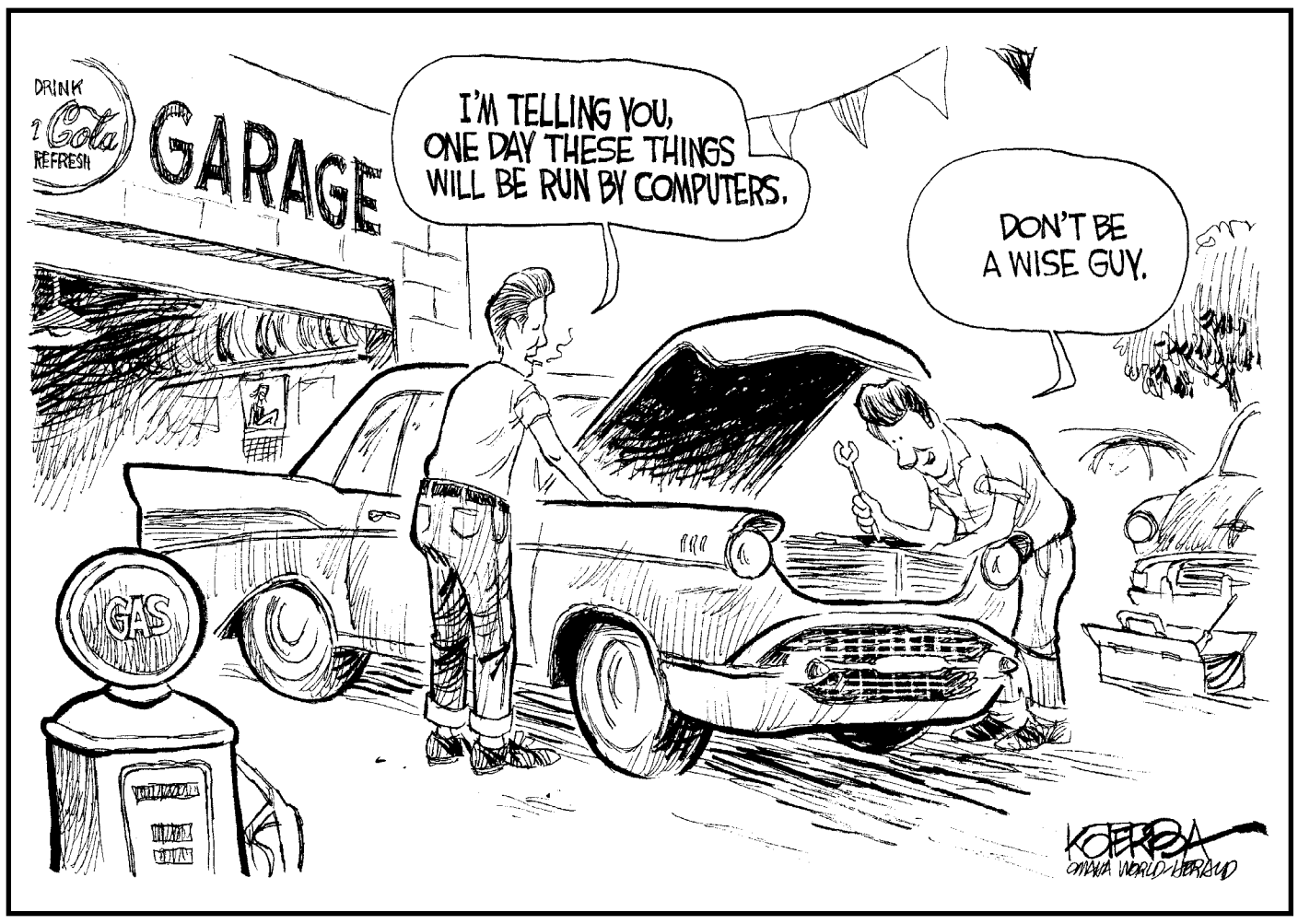

Restoring prosperity means raising debt ceiling when necessary

By MARK WEISBROT
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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WASHINGTON—Various political demagogues and Wall Street interests have mounted a campaign to convince Americans that despite persistent massive unemployment for the foreseeable future, more than 15 million people underwater on their home mortgages and two unnecessary wars, what we really should be worried about is America's national debt.

It doesn't help that most of the media pretends not to understand the basic economics, accounting or arithmetic of the issue.

Let's start with the economics: the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office forecasts unemployment of 10, 9.1, and 7.2 percent, respectively, for 2010-2012. The rate does not fall to what CBO considers full employment, 5.3 percent, until 2014.

The difference between 10 percent unemployment and the 5.3 percent is more than 7 million people without jobs. And that doesn't count the increase in the millions of people involuntarily working part time, or the millions who leave the labor force because they can't find work.

This is unacceptable in any civilized society; but even more outrageous in the world's richest country. It means millions of ruined lives and permanent scars that will persist for years and possibly decades—in the form of increased poverty, lower educational levels, mental illness, suicide, crime and other social ills.

This means that our government's stimulus package was too small, which fits with the data: in 2009, taking into account the spending cuts and tax increases of state and local governments, it was less than one percent of GDP. That is why the stimulus is estimated as having saved about 1.6 to 2 million jobs, whereas we are down about 8.5 million jobs since the recession began.

> *The difference between 10 percent unemployment and the 5.3 percent is more than 7 million people without jobs. And that doesn't count the increase in the millions of people involuntarily working part time, or the millions who leave the labor force because they can't find work.*

Bottom line: we need more stimulus, not less; this is not the time to be worrying about deficits or national debt.

It is clear that there is no short-term problem with running large deficits in a weak economy: investors are buying up even long-term U.S. Treasury bonds at remarkably low real interest rates. Clearly, the markets do not perceive that our government is heading into risky territory with its debt. Interest payments on the debt are currently just 1.4 percent of GDP.

For the long term, as the CBO has emphasized, the vast majority of the deficit and debt problem is just rapidly-rising health care costs.

Of course, we could be like other developed countries and have universal health care and pay about half of what we are now paying per person. That is the average for other high-income countries. This would take care of our long-term federal debt problems.

Another significant contributor to our long-term debt is the military. On an annual basis, we spent 5.6 percent of GDP on just the Defense Department budget last year. Before 9/11, the CBO had projected just 2.4 percent for 2009. The difference is more than twice the long-term shortfall in our Social Security system, and it is based on an understatement of military spending. Maybe we need to focus on protecting our airports from actual terrorists rather than recruiting more by occupying foreign countries. Maybe we don't need hundreds of military bases all over the world.

But thanks to the power of what President Eisenhower famously named the "military industrial complex," President Obama has exempted the military from any spending freeze. And thanks to the two most powerful lobbies in Congress—insurance and pharmaceutical—getting health care costs under control is still a distant dream.

And then there are the people who make the nation's major economic decisions and actually brought us this mess—Goldman Sachs and their Wall Street friends: they want to put Social Security on the chopping block to pay for their crimes (and bonuses).

Anybody see a pattern here? It's not the debt that threatens our future.

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Farewell, my (almost) comrades

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Those old enough to remember *Farewell My Concubine*, the only Chinese language film awarded the Cannes Palme d'Or, will recall how China's art and wisdom are highly metaphorical, full of allusions and allegories, illustrating the inextricable entwining of fact and fiction, appearance and reality, in the Sino *yin-yang* mind.

We recall the movie *Hero* that Zhang Yimou directed for the cast of Maggie Cheung, Jet Li, Tony Cheung and Zhang Ziyi in 2002, loosely based on the legendary *Jing Ke* assassin known for attempts on the life of Shi Huang, King of Qin. The King unified the warring states of Han, Zhao, Wei, Chu, Yan and Qi in the second century BCE and earned him the title of first Emperor. That unity expanded the local sense of being *Zhong Guo,* the Middle Kingdom (much like "Middle Earth"), later known in English as China (from the word *Qin,* pronounced 'chin'). Loyalty to a unified China rather than allegiance to the leader is a political message in the movie and seen as being promoted by Beijing in the quiet leadership ascent of the then young Hu Jintao.

Filming of *Hero* started before and was released after 9/11, except in the U.S. where it was delayed in deference to political sensibilities. Miramax clipped 10 minutes of the film as once invincible America suddenly looked weak-kneed, buckling down with reactive anxiety to some turbaned followers of Osama bin Laden. The movie's subtitles were toned down to make China look less assertive to the rest of the world that was more or less dependent on its commerce, the U.S. included. Middle Kingdom observers often dismiss this self-confidence as bellicose self-regard, dumb-downing Chinese citizens around the world, or being dumb-founded to Sino presence in colleges and universities and ubiquitous Chinatowns!

I took the inaugural Beijing-Saipan flight to check out teaching positions in Beijing, *Dong Bei* Zhong Guo, and Shanghai. I did a 30-day America-by-Rails last September, and this four-week China sojourn ended up on rails as well. From Beijing, the world's fastest train, the CHR2 (also known locally as D-trains), tracked to Shenyang in four hours in what normally would be eight.

A week during the Spring Festival, I took K-trains (slower by half the speed of D-trains with more frequent stops) to the Autonomous region of Chinese-Koreans in the Russia-North Korea-Jilin triangle, on to Heilongjiang's Ice Festival at Harbin. Did another four-hour D-train from Harbin but it was China-on-the-move time so I ended up standing by the luggage rack with other passengers. To Shanghai, I wanted to do the nine-hour D-train but my Shenyang host prevailed on my taking Shanghai Air's offering for the same cost. Adventure took a back seat to ease and convenience.

I had hoped to drum up interest in the CNMI toward the big neighbor next door from where almost a third of the Commonwealth's population in the 90s came from. Four weeks into the cold snow-sleet-and-rain northeast section of China, with a stop in Shanghai whose Expo 2010 we highly recommend for anyone to attend, we return to the warmth of the Marianas Trench, buffeted by the turbulent currents of the Philippine Sea, the dry El Nino tranquility of the Pacific and Madeleine's greed.

We now sum up what was learned and what to anticipate. China's nationhood is the world's longest and the conquering Tungus/Manchus and Mongols from north of the defensive Great Wall did take over China but were integrated and assimilated by the conquered. China is also the most ancient of living cultures, and save for 6th graders in the CNMI who study ancient civilizations in Social Studies classes at PSS, our familiarity with things Chinese is limited to the chopsticks in Anglocized Cantonese restaurants, and squeezing more blood out of the hapless, insecure and legally unprotected menial workers and ladies of the night who barely survive Saipan's shadows this side of the law. The trip to *Dong Bei,* even for one conversant with the world's cultures and history, dramatically revealed an ignorance of our neighbor's culture, and exposed a parochialism over our way of life as somehow superior to theirs.

We now return to matters concerning the Marianas. Article XII of the CNMI Constitution rankles both sides of the ongoing discourse. It helps to state the context one brings to the discussion. Earth use in my book is about stewardship rather than ownership of land. No one has absolute rights to our Commons, one of which is the planet Earth. When we monetize value and give arbitrary premium to ownership of real estate in perpetuity, as capitalists do, then we are dealing with historical decisions, which can be reaffirmed or undecided.

The question of the Visitors' Center of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument location, given that the protected area involves the environs of the three CNMI northernmost islands, has an obvious answer: "Shame on you, Madeleine."

On the other hand, MB's move to make the MTMM Center in Guam pushes the issue of political union ("reunification" of the Marianas seem too strong to point to a reality that never was) a live one, and as Manglona of Rota opined, it is not an issue of whether or not, but when. We can have two centers, the main one being on Saipan, and the supporting one in Hagatna! Madeleine?

For the title of this reflection, farewell is in order but "comrade" is not a mainstream term in Amerika, thus, the qualifier. My host's camaraderie and that of their friends make the term appropriate. As an American who values enlightened minds and compassionate hearts, I offer a camaraderie on this vein as well, comrades!

I slurp my last *mein* in a Japanese noodle shop of Terminal 2 of the Pudong International Airport, unable to confirm my booking with Shanghai Airlines to Saipan, and ungraciously turning into an ugly American for not getting my way. Though cool outside, it is quite pleasant and warm in the terminal so I peeled off all winter attire; I am the only one in a short-sleeve shirt, and the clientele's eyes are on me. A *xiao pang zi* (robust child) took one look at me and cried: *xeng jing ping!* Yes, the journey to Dong Bei was one crazy walkabout of this soul. Glad to be home.

Fairness for Toyota

By HALEY BARBOUR
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Republican, is governor of Mississippi.

When I announced three years ago that Toyota would open a U.S. vehicle assembly plant in Blue Springs, Miss., I said Toyota was the world's premier automobile manufacturer. I still believe that.

Make no mistake, the safety and reliability concerns identified in some Toyota automobiles—although they occur very infrequently—are serious. It seems to me, however, that the company is doing everything it should as quickly as possible to make things right. This includes not just a full recall but also temporarily halting production in five plants to focus on the problem and repairing recalled vehicles. The company has taken significant steps to improve quality and reliability worldwide, and to increase the transparency of its communications with government officials and customers.

But as two House committees and one in the Senate prepare for hearings on Toyota's safety issues, I worry that there has been a rush to judgment. The way that Congress and the Obama administration respond to this controversy will have real economic consequences.

We cannot lose sight of the company's importance to America's economy—and should not ignore its continued commitment to doing things the right way. Although Toyota was founded in Japan more than 70 years ago, after five decades of doing business in the United States it is as much an "American" car company as any other.

In Mississippi, the automaker is investing $1.3 billion to build a Prius assembly plant that will provide good jobs to more than 2,000 new Toyota team workers plus some 2,500 supplier jobs. Though the economic downturn has delayed the start of production, Toyota is honoring its financial commitments to the state—including a promised annual donation of $5 million for the next 10 years to help fund local education programs. That's the kind of company Toyota is.

Across America, Toyota—together with its 1,500 dealers and 500 suppliers—has helped create more than 200,000 jobs. It operates major design, research and manufacturing operations in 10 states. Nearly half of the vehicles it sells in the States are built here. And over the past 22 years, 16 million Toyota vehicles have been made in America.

The company's direct investment in the United States exceeds $18 billion, but it's not just American workers who profit. Eighty percent of Toyota vehicles sold in this country over the past 20 years are still on the road.

That's why I hope Congress will resist the temptation to attack Toyota simply to advance the interests of its American competitors. Toyota should not be blamed implicitly for the problems of Detroit's automakers. Moreover, the decision to bail out bankrupt General Motors and Chrysler with $60 billion from U.S. taxpayers has put Washington in an uncomfortable position. I know Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to be an honorable man, but can these hearings be seen as impartial, focused on enforcing the rules and policing corporate behavior, when the federal government has stakes in two major car companies?

Lawmakers must tread carefully lest they give Chrysler, in which the government has a 10 percent stake, or General Motors, in which the government now owns a majority stake, an unfair advantage.

Washington's primary role should be to work with Toyota to protect consumers and assist in getting problems fixed as quickly as possible. Its other responsibility is to be vigilant in pursuing fairness—Toyota cannot be unjustly punished or have its business recovery impeded by attempts to gain advantages for companies owned by the government.

America's openness and its reputation for fairness are what have made our economy so attractive to foreign investment—investment that will surely aid in our recovery. If Congress and the media treat Toyota differently, foreign businesses might think again before investing in Mississippi or any other state. During these hearings, excessive bashing of Toyota is likely to be interpreted as a signal that the United States is turning protectionist during these tough economic times. That would not be good for the American economy, companies located here or their workers.

Letter to the Editor

Recall Bonitan Tåsi bill

Dear Congresswoman Bordallo: I would like to ask you, Madame Chairman, to please recall House Bill 4493, which calls to provide a Monument Visitors and Research Center in Guam. You are aware that a similar bill, House Bill 3511, was introduced on July 31, 2009, by Congressman Gregorio C. Sablan—much earlier than your bill.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands provided approximately 95,216 square miles of submerged land and ocean water above them for conservation. This sizeable amount of ocean and masses of land—which includes the Marianas Trench, the islands of Farallon de Pajardos, Maug and Asuncion—were designated by former President George W. Bush as conservation areas and created the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The people of the CNMI were made to believe during the deliberation to designate the preservation that the Multi-Purpose Visitors Center will be built in the CNMI. Therefore, it is proper and appropriate to establish the center in the CNMI and not Guam. Guam did not contribute much in the amount of ocean or land to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Madam Chairwoman, please try not to stir bad spells and unwelcome relationship between the people of the CNMI and Guam. We are in the stage of forgetting the bad relationship between the people of the CNMI and Guam during the past decades and now we are in the process of building a better relationship. The people of Guam and the CNMI are trying hard to forget the bad spells during World War II and the reunification between Guam and the CNMI. The people of the CNMI voted overwhelmingly to reunite with Guam but the people of Guam voted against reunification with the CNMI because Guam felt that the CNMI would be a financial burden to Guam because the CNMI economy was very bad at that time. Thank God that we did not join with Guam because the people of the CNMI will be getting leftovers from Guam.

Please reconsider your position and recall House Bill 4493. There is no need to debate your bill because it will create animosity between the people of the CNMI and Guam.

Thank you for working together with our delegate Gregorio Sablan in harmony for the benefit of the people of Mariana Islands.

Juan M. Sablan
As Teo, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲84° ▼73°	▲85° ▼73°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲82	▼72
Palau	Sunny	▲90	▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

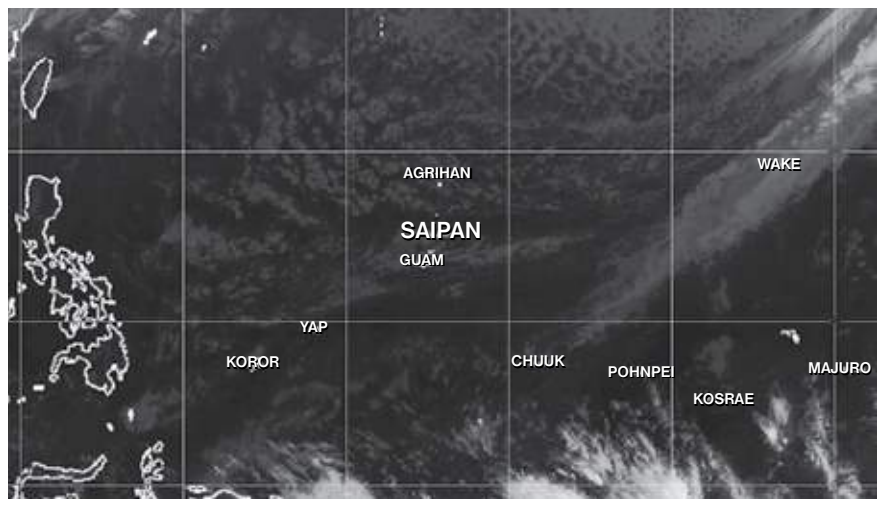
Auckland	Sunny	▲71	▼60
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼33
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲82	▼74
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼70
London	Showers	▲48	▼39
Los Angeles	Rain	▲60	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲91	▼74
Melbourne	Rain	▲80	▼59
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲71	▼50
New York	Flurries	▲38	▼32
Osaka	Showers	▲53	▼45
Paris	Showers	▲47	▼43
Pusan	Cloudy	▲54	▼42
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼37
San Francisco	Showers	▲58	▼46
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼31
Tokyo	Showers	▲46	▼38
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲43	▼30

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough of low pressure runs northeastward from 20N159E to beyond 25N166E. Clouds and patchy rain associated with this system are present east of Minami Tori Shima or north of a line from 19N157E to 25N167E. A cold front enters the discussion area northeast of Wake Island at 25N172E and extends southwestward to east of Rota at 14N147E then continues westward as a shear line to end at 15N133E. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 220 miles northwest of the cold front between 172E and 156E. Clouds with patchy light rain are seen along and up to 200 miles north of the rest of this feature. Converging winds south of the cold front are producing scattered showers north of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 10N152E to 15N156E. A near-equatorial trough reaches northeastward from EQ133E to 3N150E then turns southeastward to end at EQ164E. Low-level convergence near the trough axis is combining with moist upper-level winds to create scattered showers south of Koror within 90 miles of a line from 1N132E to 6N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen southwest of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 1N146E to 6N152E and farther southeast or south of a line from 2N152E to 1N161E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers southeast of Kosrae within 90 miles of a line from EQ168E to 5N166E and over Butaritari atoll between the equator and 5N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:57 PM	5:00 AM
Sunday	5:59 PM	5:49 AM
Monday	6:59 PM	6:35 AM
Tuesday	7:58 PM	7:19 AM
Wednesday	8:57 PM	8:04 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:50am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:10am	2:50pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 27, 2001

DOF sued for failure to pay tax refunds
A local business entity has leveled a lawsuit against the Department of Finance for alleged failure to grant a complete refund of all excise taxes the plaintiff claims it is entitled to since 2000. Plaintiff Island Apparel has termed the finance department's alleged refusal to release its business tax rebate as an "adverse decision" that has denied the company complete refund of all excise taxes paid on apparel and other goods it has imported and exported in and out of the CNMI. The Airport Road-based company further alleged that the government agency's alleged decision to stay the release of tax refunds is "unlawful, unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with the law."

Gov't health insurance not in tune with fed laws
Non-compliance of the Government Health and Life Insurance Plan with United States laws has prompted officials of the NMI Retirement Fund to ask for a swift revision of the program. Fund officials see the need to immediately study plans to revise the existing health and life insurance program of its GHLI Branch because it fails to cover three major aspects. Retirement Fund Board Chair Vicente Camacho disclosed present policies on health and life insurance will be amended to make it compliant with Health Insurance Portability Act and the American with Disabilities Act.

Feb. 27, 2002

Landfill construction in full swing next week
In line with the government's efforts to abate the looming garbage crisis on Saipan, the contractor for the Marpi landfill project said it would go full blast with actual work on the project next week, with the commitment to beat the December deadline to complete the facility. In another development, the issue on the needed revision on a federal permit in connection with an endangered species on the landfill site has already been resolved. Dr. Tina de Cruz, wildlife biology supervisor at the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, said that its federal counterpart has already allowed the contractor-the joint venture of Dick Pacific Corporation and Pacific Drilling Ltd.-to proceed, even though the revised permit is still being worked out.

Heinz to CSC: Hey, relax!
The Civil Service Commission's March 15 deadline for the passage of corrective amendments to Public Law 13-1 has raised the hackles of House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, who said yesterday that setting a deadline for the passage of any legislation is not "right." Hofschneider conceded that Public Law 13-1 may be defective to the extent that it is vague and ambiguous and, if not clarified, could create some hardships in the decision-making process at the commission. "Nonetheless, this is the very reason why imposing a time-frame in the passage of a bill or in remedying the issue is ridiculous at this stage," he said.

Feb. 27, 2004

Automatic granting of VEP for select group pushed
ReporterCiting the need for competitiveness in the global tourism and business markets, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce said it wants the CNMI to grant automatic approval of Visitor Entry Permits to travelers with valid U.S. visas and visas from U.S.-favored nations. SCC president Alex Sablan also aired concerns on the proposal to impose fees in connection with the processing of VEPs. Under the proposal, a VEP applicant pays $20 to process an application filed at least seven days before the expected arrival date in the CNMI. If it is filed less then seven days before arrival, the fee becomes $40. The proposed amendment to the immigration rules also seeks to assess a $100-fee for criminal background check.

Retention system eyed to filter runoff to Saipan lagoon
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of designing a biofilter retention system that will filter nonpoint source pollution before stormwater runoff flows into the lagoon. Coastal Resources Management Office's Benny Pangelinan disclosed this development yesterday in connection with the Army Corps' Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Restoration project. Pangelinan said the Army Corps has been eyeing the biofilter project in lieu of the ponding basin proposal at a former quarry site in Garapan. The federal agency and its environmental consultants have determined that the proposed site for the ponding basin is not suitable for the project, Pangelinan said.

Business

Obama may make 'living wage' factor in contracts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Companies that pay workers "living wages" and offer generous benefits could gain an advantage in bidding on government contracts under a new policy the White House is considering.

The policy, known as "high road" contracting, could draw the Obama administration into a larger debate over whether the government should use public purse strings to strengthen the middle class and promote higher labor standards.

Business groups who oppose the plan say it would shut out smaller firms from competing for more than $500 billion a year in federal contracts and increase government procurement costs.

The plan's advocates include unions. They say too many jobs financed by government contracts come with low wages and limited benefits and support companies that violate employment laws.

The Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank, estimates that nearly 20 percent of the 2 million federal contract workers in the U.S. earn less than the poverty threshold wage of $9.91 per hour.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show the plan under consideration would examine the wages and benefits—such as health insurance, retirement benefits and paid leave—a firm pays its employees as a factor in the contract award process. Another factor would be whether a contract bidder is a repeat violator of labor and employment laws.

A Labor Department compliance office would compile a score on contract bidders based on the criteria.

Earlier this month, a group of four Republican senators led by Sen. Susan Collins of Maine wrote a letter to Budget Director Peter Orszag arguing that imposing such a policy could increase the cost of federal contracting and hurt small businesses.

Hummer: In the end, just too big for its own good

NEW YORK (AP)—One thing you can say about the Hummer, roaring down the road, towering over subcompacts like an NBA center in a sea of toddlers: It always drew a reaction.

The beefy, military-inspired SUV began as a macho icon for enthusiasts like Arnold Schwarzenegger, who held photo ops in Hummers in his early days as governor. For others it was a symbol of excess, environmental ruin and tackiness—a view that seemed to grow in direct proportion to gas prices and economic distress.

And now the brand is likely no more. General Motors Co. said Wednesday its bid to sell Hummer to a Chinese heavy equipment manufacturer had collapsed. Government regulators in Beijing failed to approve the sale and GM said it would have no choice but to let the brand die, 18 years after its first and most enormous model started lumbering off the assembly line.

"Finally," said Ann Mesnikoff, director of the green transportation campaign at the Sierra Club in Washington. "The Hummer was the epitome of gas guzzling."

Schwarzenegger, who was instrumental in popularizing the vehicle, had a much different reaction two decades ago when he first saw the Hummer's direct military ancestor. Then a body builder turned movie star, he was on his way to the set of "Kindergarten Cop" in Oregon when an Army convoy packed with Humvees thundered past.

"I put the brakes on," Schwarzenegger said at the 1992 ceremony that AM General held to start production of civilian Hummers. "Someone smashed into the back of me, but I just stared. 'Oh my God, there is the vehicle,' I said. And from then on, I was possessed."

Hummer's earliest predecessor was the jeep, the boxy multipurpose vehicle built in large numbers for the Army in World War II. The jeep evolved into the Humvee, which saw heavy action—and entered Americans' consciousness—during the Gulf War.

In the late 1990s, GM bought Hummer from AM General and began selling a smaller but still outsized model, the H2. Sales boomed after its 2005 introduction of an even smaller model, the H3, that was roughly equivalent in size to other automakers' full-size SUVs.

Hummer's image began to change as gas prices began creeping higher, the economy started to crack and the U.S. entered the most difficult period of the Iraq war. Sales, which peaked at 71,524 in 2006, plunged to just more than 9,000 vehicles in 2009. In January, GM sold just 265 Hummers in the U.S.

Robert Thompson, professor of popular culture at Syracuse University, said that just as the Hummer had cemented an image of military might combined with off-road brawn, changes in public sentiment turned SUVs "into tantamount to the creation of the devil himself."

Nation

Snowstorm in Northeast, rain pounds New England

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A slow-moving winter storm packing heavy, wet snow and potentially flooding rain spread over the Northeast on Thursday, disrupting air traffic and closing schools. Utility companies braced for possible widespread power outages overnight due to high winds and toppled trees.

The strongest wind and heaviest snow was forecast for late Thursday and early Friday, with a foot or more of snow and high winds expected from southeastern Pennsylvania, into New Jersey and New York and up to parts of New England.

Parts of western Maine received nearly a foot a snow Thursday, while Philadelphia received a dusting. About 4 inches of snow fell in New York City, where a man was killed by a falling snow-laden tree branch in Central Park—one of at least three deaths being blamed on the storm.

In parts of southern and mid-coastal Maine more than 3 inches of rain has fallen and forecasters say some areas could get more than 7 inches. The Presumpscot River in Westbrook was expected to crest at 9 feet over flood stage by Friday afternoon. The river in the flood-prone New Hampshire town of Goffstown was nearing flood stage and residents were told to prepare for possible evacuation.

AP

A snowy stream is seen through Glen Span Arch at the southern end of the Ravine, a wooded section of New York's Central Park, on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010.

Hundreds of flights have also been canceled at major East Coast airports.

The latest blast of winter was expected to linger more than 24 hours, meaning more headaches Friday. More snow is predicted for much of the region Saturday, too.

The National Weather Service put much of the East Coast under wind advisories and warnings from 4 p.m. Thursday until as late as 7 a.m. Friday. The agency warned that winds could blow steadily between 20 and 30 mph in some areas, with gusts of 55 mph or higher in coastal and mountainous areas.

Even coastal New England, which was seeing rain but nothing like the 18 inches of snow expected in some parts of northern New Jersey and upstate New York, was under coastal flood watches because of the wind.

By late morning, the weather service station in Mount Holly, N.J., reported the strongest scattered gusts so far—a not-so-damaging 25 mph—with snow totals in the 2-inch range.

Mass. DA seeks inquest in 1986 Bishop slaying case

CANTON, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts prosecutor ordered an inquest into Amy Bishop's 1986 fatal shooting of her brother, saying there are new questions about whether it was the accident investigators concluded at the time.

The handling of the case has been under renewed scrutiny since Bishop was accused of killing three faculty colleagues in a shooting Feb. 12 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

In announcing the inquest Thursday, Norfolk District Attorney William Keating revealed that investigators recently examined a photo taken of Bishop's bedroom after her brother's death and enlarged it. They found a newspaper article that described someone killing a relative with a shotgun and stealing a getaway car from a car dealership.

Bishop shot and killed her brother, Seth, with a shotgun at their Braintree home. She then went to a car dealership body shop and tried to commandeer a car, police said. After her arrest, she told police that the weapon had accidentally discharged. "We were struck by how parallel the circumstances were," he said. "That could go to the state of mind of Amy Bishop at the time."

Keating said the inquest would allow a judge to subpoena Bishop's parents. He said they refused to talk with two state troopers who went to their home last week, saying they had retained counsel. Bishop's mother, Judith, was the only other witness to the slaying.

"Had they cooperated and we thought their answers were forthright and truthful, this might not have been necessary," Keating said.

Bryan Stevens, an attorney for the Bishops, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Obama, GOP fail to reach accord on health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giving no ground, President Barack Obama and Republican leaders fought forcefully for their competing visions of historic health care reform Thursday in an exhausting, often-testy live-on-TV debate. Far from any accord, Obama signaled the Democrats were prepared to push ahead for an all-or-nothing congressional vote.

The marathon, 7 1/2-hour session did reveal narrow areas of agreement on the topic that has vexed Congress for months and defied U.S. leaders for decades. But larger ideological differences overwhelmed any common ideas, all but cementing the widely held view that a meaningful bipartisan health care bill is not possible as time grows short in this election year.

Obama rejected Republican preferences for starting over, discussing the issue much longer or dealing with it in a limited, step-by-step fashion.

"We cannot have another yearlong debate about this," Obama declared. "I'm not sure we can bridge the gap."

Party officials said March is probably the last chance to act.

It has been more than a year since he proposed his overhaul, which would be important to virtually all Americans in remaking the way they receive and pay for health care. The version he embraces, basically tracking legislation passed by the Senate, would expand health coverage to some 30 million people who lack it and stop insurance companies from dropping people for questionable reasons or denying coverage to people who have certain illnesses.

SeaWorld will keep whale despite trainer's death

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Despite calls to free or destroy the animal, SeaWorld said Thursday it will keep the killer whale that drowned its trainer, but will suspend all orca shows while it decides whether to change the way handlers work with the behemoths.

Also, VIP visitors who occasionally were invited to pet the killer whales will no longer be allowed to do so.

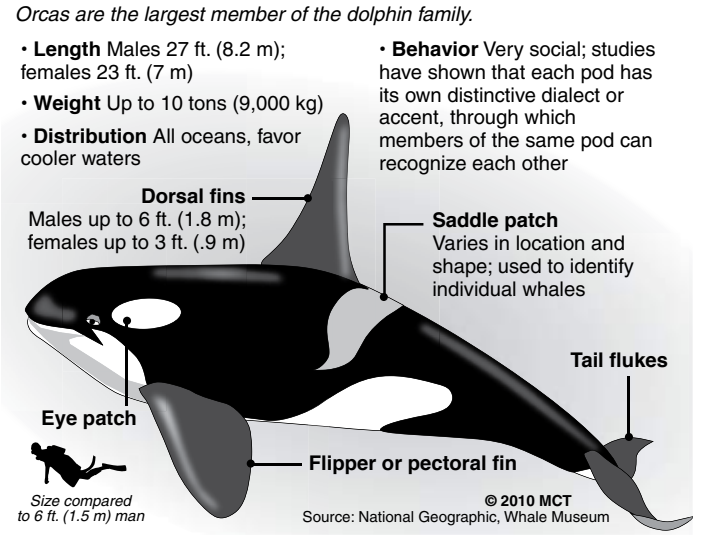
"We're going to make any changes we have to to make sure this doesn't happen again," Chuck Tompkins, chief of animal training at SeaWorld parks, said a day after a 12,000-pound killer whale named Tilikum dragged a trainer into its pool and thrashed the woman to death as audience members watched in horror.

Talk-radio callers, bloggers and animal activists said Tilikum—which was involved in the deaths of two other people over the past two decades—should be released into the ocean or put to death like a dangerous dog.

Tompkins said that Tilikum would not survive in the wild because it has been captive for so long, and that destroying the animal is not an option either, because it is an important part of the breeding program at SeaWorld and a companion to the seven other whales there.

Dawn Brancheau, a 40-year-old veteran trainer who adored whales, was rubbing Tilikum from a poolside platform when the 22-foot creature grabbed the woman's ponytail in its jaws and pulled her in. Witnesses said the whale played with Brancheau like a toy.

"He kept pushing her and poking her with his nose," said Paula Gillespie of Delaware, who saw the attack from an underwater observation point. "It looked like she was just totally caught off guard and looked like she was struggling."


Killer whales
Orcas are the largest member of the dolphin family.
• Length Males 27 ft. (8.2 m); females 23 ft. (7 m)
• Weight Up to 10 tons (9,000 kg)
• Distribution All oceans, favor cooler waters
• Behavior Very social; studies have shown that each pod has its own distinctive dialect or accent, through which members of the same pod can recognize each other
Dorsal fins
Males up to 6 ft. (1.8 m); females up to 3 ft. (.9 m)
Saddle patch
Varies in location and shape; used to identify individual whales
Tail flukes
Eye patch
Flipper or pectoral fin
Size compared to 6 ft. (1.5 m) man
© 2010 MCT
Source: National Geographic, Whale Museum

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman dead in Calif. rampage that killed deputy

SANGER, Calif. (AP)—A gunman opened fire Thursday on authorities who tried to serve search warrants at his mobile home in Central California, killing a sheriff's detective and critically wounding a police officer before barricading himself in the residence during a raging gunbattle that also left him dead. A total of three law enforcement officials were shot in the barrage. A Fresno County sheriff's deputy was also wounded and was in stable condition Thursday evening, authorities said. Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer said authorities used a robot equipped with cameras to confirm the suspect's death Thursday evening following a tense, daylong standoff outside the home in Minkler, a tiny village in a rural section of the San Joaquin Valley.

2 indicted in foiled NYC subway bomb plot case

NEW YORK (AP)—Two high school classmates of admitted terrorist Najibullah Zazi were indicted Thursday in a foiled scheme to bomb New York City subways that a prosecutor said was directed by "al-Qaida leadership." Zarein Ahmedzay and Adis Medunjanin, both 25, pleaded not guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country and providing material support to the al-Qaida terrorist network. Zazi, a former Colorado airport shuttle driver who attended high school in Queens, pleaded guilty to similar charges this week. Zazi was arrested in September after he drove cross-country from Denver to New York, where authorities said he abandoned the bombing plan after realizing authorities were watching him.

Friend: NY mom had obsessed over dead son's autism

NEW YORK (AP)—Gigi Jordan quit a high-powered job as a pharmaceutical company executive and abandoned her social life to devote all her time to her severely autistic son. For most of his tortured life, Jude Michael Mirra repeatedly banged his head on the floor, screaming and unable to speak, writhing in pain. His mother, trained as a nurse, went to exhaustive lengths to help the 8-year-old, desperate for a cure. But nothing worked. Her only child is dead now—by her own hands, according to police. After years of struggling—with his autism and her inability to help him—Gigi Jordan gave up. To those who knew her, she was a loving, overprotective single mother who snapped under incredible strain. To prosecutors, she was a killer.

Asia

Appeal for Myanmar's Suu Kyi release rejected

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The highest court in military-ruled Myanmar dismissed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's latest bid for freedom Friday, turning down an appeal to end 14 years of house arrest, her lawyer said.

The Supreme Court's decision had been expected since legal rulings in Myanmar rarely favor opposition activists.

Defense lawyer Nyan Win told reporters he would launch one final "special appeal" before the court after determining why the earlier appeal had been rejected. "The court order did not mention any reasons," he said.

"Although the decision comes as no surprise, it is deeply disappointing. We continue to believe that (Suu Kyi) should be released immediately along with the other 2,000 and more other prisoners of conscience," said British Ambassador Andrew Heyn, who attended the court session along with diplomats from Australia, France and the United States.

AP

A police officer walks past a banner of detained Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi outside the British Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010.

French Ambassador Jean Pierre Lafosse said Suu Kyi was "the victim of a sham trial."

Suu Kyi's lawyers appealed to the court last November after a lower court a month earlier upheld a decision to sentence her to 18 months of house arrest. She was convicted last August of violating the terms of her previous detention by briefly sheltering an American who swam to her lakeside home.

Official: Missile kills Pakistani Taliban leader

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani Taliban commander wanted in the deadly 2006 bombing of the U.S. consulate in Karachi was killed in a suspected CIA missile strike in northwest Pakistan, officials said Thursday—the latest blow in a crackdown on militants in the region.

Mohammed Qari Zafar was among at least 13 people killed Wednesday when three missiles slammed into a compound and a vehicle in the Dargah Mandi area of the North Waziristan tribal region on the border with Afghanistan, two Pakistani intelligence officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

■ ■ ■

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban are claiming responsibility for deadly suicide attacks that killed at least 10 people in the heart of Kabul.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said Friday that five suicide bombers conducted the attacks on two buildings used by foreigners.

Police officer Gulam Mustafa at the scene said authorities think two residential hotels, or guest houses, used by foreign workers in Afghanistan were the targets of the attacks.

Residents in the area told The Associated Press that Indians were among those living in the hotels.

Gen. Ahman Zia Yaftali, an official at the Defense Ministry, says at least 10 people have been killed. Afghan officials say civilians, Afghan policemen and an Indian citizen were among those killed.

The director of Kabul hospitals, Sayed Kabir Amiry, says 32 were wounded.

■ ■ ■

It was the latest strike in an intensified U.S. campaign to take out Taliban and al-Qaida leaders believed to be sheltering in the lawless border region with missiles fired from unmanned drone aircraft. At the same time, Pakistani intelligence forces have cracked down on Afghan Taliban in the country, arresting more than a dozen top leaders in the past few weeks.

India, Pakistan hold 1st talks since Mumbai attack

NEW DELHI (AP)—India and Pakistan held their first official talks Thursday since the 2008 Mumbai siege, with both sides saying they wanted to rebuild trust shattered in that attack but acknowledging that the meeting was just a first step toward a renewed peace process.

The four-hour meeting between the nuclear-armed rivals ranged from shared water resources to the status of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. But terrorism was the focus of the discussions—an emphasis Pakistan quickly made clear would only slow further talks.

"The only way forward is to engage meaningfully across the board, and not hold the relationship hostage" to the issue of terrorism, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir told reporters after the meetings. India has long argued that Pakistan has not done enough to rein in militants operating from its soil, an accusation that Pakistan denies.

Expectations were extremely low for Thursday's talks, which were seen as little more than a symbolic first meeting and which India had billed as "talks about talks." Both sides indicated little of substance had been achieved.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire races through Bangladesh factory; 21 dead

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A fire raced through a sweater factory near the Bangladeshi capital late Thursday, killing at least 21 people and injuring dozens more, officials and television reports said. Fire fighter official Abdur Rashid told The Associated Press by phone from the scene that rescuers recovered dozens of victims from the six-story building, which was engulfed in flames. Twenty-two of them were either "critically injured" or dead, he said. The Ntv television station said at least 21 people including 13 women had died of burns or suffocation, while Bangla Vision also put the same figure. Reports said at least 50 people had been injured.

NKorea says 4 SKoreans illegally enter the North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Friday four South Koreans are under investigation for illegally entering the country. Authorities "recently detained four South Koreans who illegally entered" North Korea, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said Friday. "They are now under investigation." The brief dispatch did not identify the South Koreans or say when they allegedly enter the North. The National Intelligence Service, Seoul's top spy agency, had no immediate comment on the report.

World

Heavy rain hits Haiti's quake-ravaged capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The first heavy rain since the earthquake briefly doused Haiti's capital Thursday night as relief officials changed tack on dealing with the homeless, demphasizing plans to build big camps outside Port-au-Prince.

Instead, they want the hundreds of thousands of refugees in this city where barren hillsides and weakened buildings threaten to give way to pack up their tents and tarps and return to destroyed neighborhoods.

People dashed for shelter down streets streaming with runoff from the driving tropical rain. The 20-minute drenching swept trash along roadside gutters, clogging drains and turning depressions into ponds.

Some women stripped naked and took advantage of the downpour to take a shower—there are no bathing facilities in overcrowded tent camps that officials want to move people out of.

At a camp housing 40,000 in the hills overlooking the capital, Matin Bussreth dashed for cover from his bedsheet-tent to a neighbor's plastic tarpaulin.

"It's a deplorable moment," said Bussreth. "I heard they might be giving out tents. I hope someone will be giving me one."

With the official rainy season still a month away, forecasters warn that a potential weekend storm, the first since the Jan. 12 quake, could bring floods and mudslides to a population in a perilous state. Many dwellings are severely damaged or clinging to the sides of hillsides.

Bussreth said he could not move back to his destroyed home because it's on a hillside too steep to pitch a tent.

People who lined up at a downtown site Thursday morning to register for the new campaign to resettle more than 1.2 million Haitians expressed skepticism and were dismissive of the plan, and relief officials acknowledged its immense challenges.

"There will be flooding. There will be discomfort, misery. And that's not avoidable," a top U.N. official for Haiti, Anthony Banbury, told a New York news conference this week.

Gerald-Emile Brun, an architect with the government's reconstruction committee, agreed. "Everything has to be done before the start of the rainy season, and we will not be able to do it," he said Thursday.

Brun suggested that Haitians, who expect little of their corrupt and inefficient government, may largely be left to sort it out themselves.

Turkish court frees ex-Navy, Air Force chiefs

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A confident Turkish prime minister dismissed opposition calls for early elections Thursday and met with the country's military chief to defuse tensions over the government's probe into an alleged military plot to overthrow the Islamic-rooted government.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamic-leaning government detained over 50 high-ranking military officers this week for allegedly plotted to overthrow his government in 2003, a year after his party came to power.

Twenty people, include former senior officers, among them five admirals and three generals, have been formally charged and ordered held in jail. Prosecutors released the former chiefs of the navy and air force and another top general late Thursday without immediately charging them with being involved, saying they were unlikely to flee.

Adm. Ozden Ornek, the former navy chief, and Gen. Ibrahim Firtina, the former air force chief, are still being investigated, prosecutor Turan Colakkadi said.

Firtina told reporters as he left the courthouse that he "clarified some misunderstandings about some issues ...

"I believe that I have done this satisfactorily, and I am among you now," Firtina said.

The prosecutors also released Gen. Ergin Saygun, ex-deputy chief of the military, but ordered him to report to the police regularly. All three could still be charged later.

The tensions between Turkey's two main political forces—the Islamic-based government and the fiercely secular military—have worried businesses and investors, shaking the markets. Opposition parties have urged early elections to end the turmoil.

Earlier Thursday, Erdogan and President Abdullah Gul held a rare, three-hour meeting with Gen. Ilker Basbug, chief of the military, and afterward all three issued a joint statement.

Chavez rejects report citing rights violations

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Thursday that Venezuela should boycott the Organization of American States' human rights body, saying the panel wrongly accused his government of political repression.

Chavez took issue with a report issued this week by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which cited widespread human rights violations in Venezuela. The socialist leader called the 300-page report "pure garbage" and described the commission's president, Santiago Canton, as "excrement."

"We should prepare to denounce the agreement in which Venezuela joined... this terrible Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and leave it," Chavez said during a televised address.

His threat drew criticism from a local rights activist.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico deputy police chief slain at son's school

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Mexican authorities said Thursday that gunmen killed a deputy police chief outside an elementary school as his wife, son and other students and parents looked on. Eduardo Ezparza, the spokesman for prosecutors in northern Chihuahua state, said the shooting occurred Wednesday in the state capital, also named Chihuahua. City police coordinator Antonio Olague, 39, was dropping his 8-year-old son off at school when assailants in a car opened fire. Olague was hit by eight bullets.

Ousted Honduran leader calls charges persecution

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Former Honduran president Manuel Zelaya said Thursday that new corruption charges brought against him by Honduras' newly elected government amount to political persecution. Zelaya, who was ousted in a coup last June, said in a statement from the Dominican Republic—where he has taken refuge—that the charges undermine efforts to promote national reconciliation following the coup that ousted him. He said the charges "seek personal revenge and worsen the political persecution against me, forgetting national reconciliation."

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, February 27, 2010

Arroyo: The glory of EDSA I is gone

By TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Claiming that the "Glorious Revolution" had deteriorated into partisanship over the years, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday made her final appearance as the nation's leader at ceremonies commemorating the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Ms Arroyo led officials in raising the flag at the People Power Monument on EDSA (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue) in Quezon City, which kicked off the day's activities to mark the 24th anniversary of the uprising that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and installed Corazon "Cory" Aquino as the President.

"The Philippines has come a long way since 1986. We regained our freedom and our national pride, but somewhere along the way we became complacent. People Power gained a partisan meaning that started to divide the nation once more," Ms Arroyo said in her speech.

Thursday was Ms Arroyo's last appearance at the EDSA I anniversary because her term ends on June 30.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Christopher Carreon of the EDSA People Power Commission, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado, Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Oscar Inocentes joined Ms Arroyo at the ceremony that started at 7:30 a.m. with the singing of the national anthem and the flag-raising ceremony.

The Quezon Symphony Band then began playing classic Filipino songs, at which point former President Fidel V. Ramos, a key player in the 1986 uprising, emerged from the crowd and shared the stage with Ms Arroyo and the other officials.

Ms Arroyo said the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution should be commemorated not for the partisanship that came in its wake but for its spirit that presented the "greatness" of Filipinos to the world.

"People Power is not partisan. It is not about whose politics one supports. It's about the heroism of the many who held strongly to their faith in the Filipino and who have sought a new Philippines that stands proudly beside any free nation in the world," she said.

Ms Arroyo said EDSA I inspired many people worldwide to "stand up for their own freedom."

"The world embraced EDSA I in 1986. The world tolerated EDSA II in 2001. The world will not forgive an EDSA III but would instead condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable," she said.

Then the Vice President, Ms Arroyo was catapulted to power in January 2001 in another military-backed revolt that ousted President Joseph Estrada on charges of corruption, incompetence and inefficiency. It came to be known as EDSA II.

AP

Protesters pull the barricade near the Presidential Palace in Manila during an anti-government rally Thursday Feb. 25, 2010 to mark the 24th anniversary of the People Power revolution that ousted the late Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos from power and installed democracy icon Corazon Aquino to the Presidency. The protesters accused the present administration of not living up to the spirit of the People Power revolution as the nation's leaders allegedly continue to implement anti-people economic and political policies.

In May 2001, followers of Estrada stormed Malacañang in a violent but ultimately unsuccessful attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo—an event that partisans of the deposed leader like to call "EDSA III."

Ms Arroyo said her administration had partly succeeded in accomplishing its goal of bringing disparate sectors together in the aftermath of People Power.

"A few years ago I declared that one of our goals is to heal the wounds of EDSA. We've achieved this to some extent," Ms Arroyo said.

"Most of those who used violence to express their opposition have had a change of heart and are now working with mainstream society to fast-track our growth," she said in reference to some of the rebel military officers involved in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, who have since rejoined the government.

"The few who have vowed to fight the constitutional authority, many of them are now seeking their own place in the political system, placing themselves under the rule of the Constitution," she added, referring to detained rebel officers Danilo Lim and Ariel Querubin who are running for Senate seats in the May elections.

"Peaceful revolution is a hallmark of the Filipino's struggle. It's also our guide now as we wage war on various fronts—against poverty, against hunger, against ignorance. People Power is the course that we will use to win this war," she said.

A portion of EDSA's northbound lane and White Plains Avenue was closed to traffic to make way for the anniversary celebration.

In an ecumenical prayer, four religious leaders called on all candidates in the May elections to be inspired to work for the country whether they win or lose.

Pacquiao, Mayweather going in different directions

By MARK WHICKER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

LOS ANGELES—Outside, you could hear a $40 million deal breaking, just beneath the barbed words of Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Inside, Manny Pacquiao's inner rope finally snapped.

It was a December afternoon, and he broke from his training routine momentarily and began shadowboxing Mayweather.

Then he told trainer Freddie Roach, "This is how I'm going to smash him."

Until then Roach had not heard Pacquiao deliver an unkind word about an opponent in nine years.

The anger passed. So did the opportunity for smashing.

Pacquiao and Mayweather were scheduled to fight on March 13, a moment that would lift boxing past all the March Madness, all the spring training, all the NFL and NBA chatter. Big fights always rise like that, but this one would pervade the world.

It won't happen, because Pacquiao and Mayweather could not agree on the amounts and timing of drug tests.

Pacquiao instead will fight Joshua Clottey on the same day, and Mayweather, in a bit of irony that makes Roach smile, will fight Shane Mosley, who has admitted to using performance-enhancers.

Mayweather signed the contract, and full Olympic-style testing is in the deal.

Roach doesn't think Mayweather will climb into that May 1 ring either. Not against the motivated and resourceful Mosley.

"He'll get swine flu or get hurt or something," Roach said.

For Pacquiao, the trick is to swallow that setback and get ready for Clottey, 34, a tough piece of welterweight gristle from Ghana. Clottey has beaten Zab Judah and Diego Corrales, and he lost a split decision to Miguel Cotto last June.

Another distraction is Pacquiao's congressional race in the Philippines. Election Day is May 10.

But the location of this fight should be a stimulus. Jerry Jones lured the two fighters into Cowboys Stadium, and the first 25,000 tickets disappeared in a hurry. The Jerry-Rigged, gargantuan stadium will be configured to seat about 45,000.

"We respect Clottey, he's a gentleman," Roach said. "But I'm just now learning things about how he fights southpaws. I think we will be the first to knock him out."

Of course, Pacquiao could just pretend he's looking across the ring at Mayweather.

"I understand Floyd," he said the other day, just before a workout at Wild Card Gym. "He just can't say, 'I'm not ready for the fight. I don't want the fight.' He's making alibis to cancel the fight. He's not ready.

"I feel bad, I'm disappointed. I'm not angry toward Floyd, but he's making alibis, and allegations about my name. I deserve for this to be given to me because I sacrifice and train hard and focus for the fight. Going for the allegations about steroids. . . . I don't even know what that is."

"He has no history of steroids, no symptoms of steroids," Roach said. "I can't even get him to take protein shakes and vitamins. He's not on steroids. This was Floyd's way out. He got boxed in a little bit. He doesn't fight everybody. He picks and chooses styles. Now I want to see what he does to get out of fighting Mosley."

Pacquiao had agreed to take blood tests up to 24 days before fight night, and immediately after the fight. Mayweather wanted testing up to 14 days before the fight. Pacquiao said he has an aversion to needles, although he has a tattoo on his inner arm.

But Mayweather based his suspicions on the fact that Pacquiao has carried his power through almost 30 pounds of weight gain during his career.

Pacquiao's people immediately pointed out that Mayweather won Golden Gloves titles 19 pounds apart across three years, and that such champions as Henry Armstrong, Ray Robinson, Alexis Arguello and Roberto Duran brought their power up through the weight classes.

Pacquiao is suing Mayweather for defamation of character.

"A lot of people think Manny is on steroids because he's so good," Roach said. "It's the type of society we're in."

The trainer says Pacquiao will be locked in March 13 for various reasons. Pac-Man is studying tape of Clottey, for instance, a habit he picked up after his relatively shabby victory over Juan Manuel Marquez. "Manny used to watch 30 seconds and get bored and go away," Roach said.

Roach also says Pacquiao has told him the Clottey fight could be his finale, a concept that has several different lawyers and promoters reaching for the Prozac.

"I think he could do more as a boxer," Roach said. "But I would love for him to leave. It would be nice. Rarely done, though. When he finds out what those politicians do. . . . Everyone loves him now, but he might have to make some tough choices. He might not be as popular."

Pacquiao is as opaque as always, when asked about the future.

However, he will pull up a chair when Mosley fights Mayweather.

"I think Mosley will win," he said, his eyes grim and dark. "He's fast. He's a fighter."

60,000 poll machines pass stress tests—Comelec

MANILA, Philippines—Over 60,000 poll machines are ready to be used for the first-ever national automated polls in May, Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairman Jose Melo announced on Thursday.

Melo made the announcement after his visit to the Comelec warehouse in Laguna. Melo expressed satisfaction over the results of the laboratory stress tests and other operational tests conducted on the machines.

After all 60,000 poll machines passed the operational and security testing, Melo said they are ready to load the machines with the automation software certified by international agency Systest Labs.

About 13,000 precinct count optical scan machines are set to arrive February 26, two days earlier than the delivery deadline. Installing the certified software on the poll machines will continue until March, when all poll machines have been tested.

Asked to rank in a scale of one to 10, with 10 signaling Comelec as most prepared for the May elections, Melo said "nine", citing the 100 percent passing rate of the poll machines when subjected to several stress and functionality tests.

The poll chief was quoted Wednesday as saying he would quit Comelec "if poll automation fails."

During the testing, the poll machines are fed with hundreds of marked paper ballots to ensure they can read and scan all the shaded ovals opposite all pre-printed names of candidates and, after scanning, that they can print the Election Returns (ERs), said Smartmatic warehouse manager Louie Campos.

Of the 68,000 machines delivered to the Laguna warehouse, only four percent failed the test on the first run but was able to comply with the requirements when tested for the second time, he said. ***INQUIRER.net***

AP

LRT EXTENSION

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo rides the new Light Rail Transit 1 North Extension Project in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010. The project, which links the LRT Line 1 and Mass Rail Transit at the North Avenue station, hopes to ease traffic in Metro Manila's clogged streets and is expected to serve up to one million passengers a day.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Filipino bishops pray for rain to break dry spell

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Some bishops in the Philippines are including special prayers for rain this weekend to help break a three-month dry spell that has led to power rationing and crop damage. The government says the drought has caused agricultural losses of $81 million and has promised support for farmers. Water levels in some dams have dropped to critical levels, and blackouts have been reported in the southern region. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cebu in the central Philippines said Friday it will lead the faithful in saying special prayers during Sunday Mass. One archbishop, however, thinks seeking divine intervention may be too early. Onesimo Gordoncillo says the drought is seasonal and people should have faith that nature will run its course.

4 dead, 2 hurt in Cagayan road accident

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Four people died instantly and two others were hurt when an overspeeding car slammed into a passenger jeepney Thursday night a national highway in Iguig town, Cagayan, police said Friday. Speaking over the phone Friday, Senior Inspector Ruben Verbo, Iguig police chief, identified the fatalities as Ryan Joy Danao, Lea Camille Nicolas, Brylle Joe Perlas and Mark Anthony Bassig, all on board a black Mitsubishi Lancer. Verbo said the fatalities' companion Arianne Joy Simangan was critical while Krissa Mae Arugay, a jeepney passenger, was declared out of danger. Both victims were brought to the Cagayan Valley Medical Center here for treatment, Verbo said. Citing initial investigation, Verbo said around 7 p.m., the Mitsubishi Lancer swerved to the left lane in Barangay (village) Nattanzan and hit the jeepney bound for Amulong town. Verbo said they were checking if Danao, who was driving the car, was under the influence of alcohol. ***(Inquirer Northern Luzon)***

Tricycle driver's son is top PMA grad

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A son of a tricycle driver from Dumaguete City will lead the 226 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy this year. Cadet First Class Erano Belen will receive the Presidential Saber from President Macapagal-Arroyo on March 1 as the top graduate of the PMA Masidlak Class of 2010. Cadet First Class Froilan Pinay—an of Ifugao—placed second while Cadet First Class Nolito Ebal of Misamis Oriental placed third. Completing the top 10 PMA graduates this year are: Cadets First Class Jhonson Gonzales of Camarines Sur; Jacob George Kho of Baguio City; Joel Perante of Tacloban City; Erwin Villanueva of Cavite; Alfie Agarao of Iloilo; Karen Padayao of Ormoc City; and Ric Ivan Joven of South Cotabato. ***(Inquirer Northern Luzon)***

Leader of private armed group killed in Calbayog

MANILA, Philippines—The leader of a private armed group was killed and 26 of his members were arrested in a police operation in Calbayog City, Samar province over the weekend, a police spokesman said on Monday. Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina said that Michael Terga, leader of the eponymous Terga private armed group, was killed when his group clashed with police Saturday night. The simultaneous police operation launched in the villages of San Jose, Patong, and Sinantan at around 11 p.m. also resulted to the arrest of 26 others. Espina said that Terga was wanted for murder, while two of those arrested were also facing various charges. The clash also left a certain Police Officer 1 Ablinga wounded. Espina said confiscated from the suspects were 44 firearms, including an M16 rifle, two caliber 45 pistols, 18 improvised shotguns, a sub-machine gun, and three air guns, among others. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

5 die, 22 hurt in Kalinga road mishap

MANILA, Philippines—Five people died and 22 others were injured when the vehicle they were on met an accident while traversing the mountains of Kalinga province Friday night, police said on Monday. The victims were heading back to Isabela from Kalinga after signing up for a faith healing program in the village of Calanan, Tabuk City 9:30 p.m. Friday when the driver of their vehicle lost control, a report from Cordillera police said. The victims were all on board a forward truck (WCW 158) driven by one Warlito Adsura. While Adsura was navigating a curve in the village of Mapaoay, the driver suddenly lost control of the steering wheel, causing the truck to turn on its side. Police said five people died in the hospital. Four of five fatalities were identified as Mario Abenoja, Pining Fabros, Puring Guzman, and Dominador Rimando. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Filipina wins top award at London Fashion Week

MANILA, Philippines—Young Filipina fashion designer Mich Dulce is this year's winner of the International Young Creative Entrepreneur award for fashion at the London Fashion Week.

Dulce, who was a Pinoy Big Brother participant a few years back, faced stiff competition from among young forerunners in the fashion industry but her unique creativity and international outlook gave her an edge over the other shortlisted candidates.

A permanent fixture in the fashion scene since 2001, Dulce has studied extensively in the best fashion schools around the world like Central St. Martins and London School of Fashion in the United Kingdom and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

The IYCE win is just one of the many accomplishments Dulce has tucked under her belt. In 2002, she was a finalist for the Paris Young Designer's Competition and 1st runner-up in the Mega Young Designer's Competition. In 2004 she was nominated for Revolutionary Designer of the Year at the MTV Style Awards, and in 2007 she won the Fashion Designer of the Year Award for Street Wear at the Mega Fashion Awards.

As the official Philippine entry, Dulce was sent on a 10-day all expenses paid trip to the UK where she met industry professionals and toured leading organizations in the fashion industry. The UK trip culminated with her attending London Fashion Week, together with fellow contestants from Bangladesh, India, Libya, Lithuania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Turkey. It was there that she was announced the winner.

Dulce will receive grant money of 5,000 pounds to be used on a collaborative project with the British Council. ***(GoodNews Pilipinas)***

Spain, RP sign agreement on Spanish language

MADRID (AFP)—Spain will help the Philippines reintroduce Spanish language instruction at public schools in the southeastern Asian country under an agreement signed Tuesday between the two nations.

The study of the language is currently voluntary at public high schools in the Philippines, a former Spanish colony, but the government plans to make its availability widespread from 2012.

Under the agreement signed Tuesday, Madrid will help train Spanish language teachers in the Philippines, help develop the curriculum and provide electronic teaching aids as well as technical advice, the Spanish foreign ministry said.

It was signed by the Philippines' Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and the Spanish education ministry's director for international relations, Jose Manuel Martinez Sierra in Barcelona, it added in a statement.

In 1987 the Philippines abolished Spanish as one of its official languages as well as a requirement that college students had to learn it.

The language, one of the world's most spoken, has since largely vanished from everyday use in the country of just under 100 million people, with English and the local languages now commonly used.

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Philippine police arrest another terror suspect

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police dealt a new blow to a notorious al-Qaida-linked group with the arrest of a suspected militant wanted in a string of kidnappings and killings, officials said Thursday.

Mujibar Alih Amon, an alleged logistics officer of the Abu Sayyaf group, took part in the 2000 abduction of American Muslim convert Jeffrey Schilling, who later escaped, and 21 Western tourists and staff of a Malaysian resort earlier that year, national police chief Jesus Verzosa said.

Verzosa handed a 600,000 peso ($13,000) reward to an unidentified civilian informant who led police in a raid on Amon's hide-out Saturday on southern Jolo Island, a militant stronghold.

In the last six years of U.S.-backed counterterrorism strikes, Philippine security forces have killed or arrested more than 800 suspected militants, including 12 this month alone, said Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor.

The arrest of Amon, 26, came a day before troops killed senior Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad, who was charged with murder and kidnappings, including last year's abductions of three Red Cross workers.

Security forces last week captured another suspected militant, Jumadali Arad, who was allegedly the driver of a speedboat used to carry dozens of hostages the Abu Sayyaf snatched from a southwestern resort in 2001. They included three Americans, two of whom were later killed.

With the arrests and Parad's killing, Verzosa said authorities "are very positive that the strength and the morale of the group has been drastically reduced."

Police intelligence officials said Amon joined the Abu Sayyaf in 1998, seven years after it was founded with suspected al-Qaida funds, and received combat training.

He was trained in bomb-making by Umar Patek, an Indonesian terrorist suspect wanted in the 2002 Bali bombings, police said. Patek and Dulmatin, both members of the Indonesia-based militant group Jemaah Islamiyah, fled to the southern Philippines after the bomb attacks.

Amon allegedly planted a bomb on a road to Jolo airport that killed two army bomb squad members who tried to defuse it in 2003, police said. He also allegedly was part of a group of militants who seized two army soldiers and burned them alive that same year.

In 2001, police said he joined the militants who kidnapped six members of the Christian sect Jehovah's Witnesses, two of whom were later decapitated and their heads dumped in the Jolo market along with a note calling for a holy war. The Abu Sayyaf, which is fighting to create an Islamic caliphate in the predominantly Christian nation, still has about 400 fighters, down from its peak of about 1,000 in the early 2000s, authorities said. It is on the U.S.-list of terrorist organizations.

AP

Philippine National Police officers escort to his detention suspected Abu Sayyaf leader Mujibar Alih Amon, center, Thursday Feb. 25, 2010 at Manila's Quezon city following his arrest in the island of Jolo in southern Philippines over the weekend. Amon, who carries a $13,000 (P600,000 Pesos) reward for his capture, allegedly was involved in bombings and kidnappings, including American Muslim convert Jeffrey Schilling in 2003.

Philip Morris combines with Philippine company

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philip Morris International Inc. said Thursday its Philippine unit and the local industry leader Fortune Tobacco Corp. are combining in a company that will control about 90 percent of country's lucrative cigarette market.

Tycoon Lucio Tan, one of the richest Filipinos and Fortune Tobacco's current head, will be chairman of the new company while Philip Morris will manage day-to-day operations, Philip Morris said in a statement.

It said each party will hold an equal interest in the new business, but no other financial details were announced. About 85 billion cigarettes are sold in the Philippines each year, according to Philip Morris.

The World Health Organization says smoking is the single biggest preventable cause of deaths worldwide, claiming about 5 million lives a year. In the Philippines, as of 2002, WHO said about 60 percent of men and 40 percent of adolescent boys smoke. Every year, there are about 20,000 smoking-related deaths in the country and WHO estimated that tobacco use drains nearly 20 percent of income in the households of Filipino smokers.

The deal will allow creation of a portfolio of strong brands and will benefit the Philippine economy by boosting development and expansion of tobacco growing, exports and investment, said Matteo Pellegrini, president of Philip Morris' Asian operations.

"This transaction is a tremendous strategic fit for our business that will cement our leadership in Southeast Asia," Pellegrini said.

Fortune Tobacco is one of the five largest privately owned cigarette companies in the world and competes mainly in the low-end market with its leading brands Fortune and Champion. It holds about 60 percent of the Philippine market and Philip Morris has 28 percent.

Philip Morris' premium priced brands include Marlboro, the world's No. 1 selling cigarette, and Philip Morris. In 2009, it held an estimated 15.4 percent of the total international cigarette market outside the U.S.

TAKE CHARGE

How to earn money (without working hard)

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I've been working for the past 20 years, and frankly, I want to get out of the rat race someday. I don't want to continue working until I die. Aside from starting a business, what other ways can I earn money without working so hard?—Paolo

Answer: It sounds like a good deal—the idea of earning money without working so hard. After working in the corporate world for a long time, you may have a valid reason for leaving the work force. You may be tired, you want to take it easy, or just want to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

While starting a business can let you earn money on your own and let you have control over your own time, it does entail a great deal of work. Many successful entrepreneurs credit their success to working hard, maybe even more so than those employed full-time in the corporate world. Indeed, it takes a great amount of sheer guts, determination, and sweat to build a business from scratch. But the rewards in the long run will be sweet and fulfilling.

Is there a way to earn money without working hard? Yes, there is. It's called investment. You save an amount of money, put it in an investment product, then let it earn interest on its own over time. There are many financial products you can choose from. Let's go over some quickly:

1. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

You can invest your money in potentially less risky securities issued by the Philippine government. Such papers include retail treasury bonds (RTB), treasury bills, and treasury bonds. Treasury bills or T-bills are short-term instruments with a term of less than a year. Treasury bonds may have a term of 3 years or 5 years, wherein you lock your money for that period of time. With an RTB, you can invest an amount as little as P5,000. T-bills and treasury bonds require a bigger amount of money. These instruments offer a higher interest rate than that offered by bank deposits, at potentially lower risk to the investor, meaning you are taking on the credit of the Philippine government in order to receive your principal back at the end of the term. Interest will be credited to your account regularly (e.g., quarterly) during the entire length of the term.

2. BONDS

You can also "lend" your money to corporations raising additional capital and you will get a regular interest income over the length of the corporate bond to be issued to you. There is some risk involved as there is the possibility of default on the part of the bond issuer; however, you will need to exercise prudence and in choosing which bond to invest, consider a number of factors, including looking at issuers which are reputable companies with good business track record in terms of product and service, creditable industry standing and solid financials in order to determine whether investment is appropriate for you. The rate of return may be higher than that offered by bank deposits and government securities.

3. STOCKS OR EQUITIES

You may "own" a piece of a company listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange by buying shares of stock. There is a minimum board lot (minimum shares to be purchased, in other words) and you have to deal with a licensed stock broker, thus you also have to shoulder broker's commission and other fees. However, stock prices may shoot to the roof anytime, thus it is possible to earn more income with this investment rather than bank deposits, government securities, or bonds. But bear in mind that with the volatility of the market, stock prices may also go down in value, way below your purchase price, which will give you a loss. The risk is high in this investment, but investors who are in it for the long term may reap the benefits.

4. POOLED FUNDS

You can join a fund pooling investments from other small investors. These funds may be mutual funds run by mutual fund companies or unit investment trust funds managed by banks. With these funds, you don't need to monitor the markets daily; the fund managers do that and invest the fund as they see fit. All investors share in the gains and losses of the funds. The price of the mutual fund share or unit investment trust fund changes depending on the net asset value per share / per unit on a relevant day. There are funds that invest only in bonds (bond funds), equities (equity funds), money market (money market funds) or a combination of them (balanced funds).

5. REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT)

This is a fairly new investment vehicle, with the law being passed in December last year. However, REITs have been a regular in the investment arena in other countries. REIT makes it possible for investors to own a part of an income-generating property. This may be a good addition to one's investment portfolio.

So it is possible to earn money without working too hard? Yes, you just have to make your money earn for you via investments. Save money, then invest it to reap the results. Talk to your bank or financial adviser today to find out which investment/s you may consider that would suit you best.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Roxanne Guinoo confirms she is pregnant

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Last Tuesday, I wrote that Roxanne Guinoo might be infanticipating. It was only later that I got confirmation that...she was. On Sunday, I announced it on "Chismax," on dzMM Teleradyo.

Roxanne's beau, Elton Yap, who's younger than she is, belongs to a prominent Chinese clan. My source said Elton's father was not keen about Roxanne, but his mother likes her.

Meanwhile, Roxanne's mom demanded that Elton marry her daughter, pronto. But they have to wait until January next year because his cousin just got hitched. "Bawal na bawal sa Chinese ang sukob," added my source. "Sabi ng mom ni Roxanne dapat bumukod sila ng tirahan. Ngayon pa siya magre-request e halos 'dun na nakatira si Roxanne sa bahay ng mga Yap kasi sobrang seloso si Elton."

Many things can happen between now and 2011. Will the wedding push through? Will Elton ask Roxanne to quit show biz? Will the pressures of being first-time parents and the challenges that come with the Tsinoy setup strengthen their bond or make their relationship seem like bondage?

■ ■ ■

It was such a delight to interview "PBB" Big winners Melai and Jason on "Chismax." Jason had an "SJ (selos jealous)" attack because Melai met up with her ex-BF Roy when she went home to GenSan. She reassured him that she no longer loved Roy even if Roy still has feelings for her.

Jason's message to Roy was loud and clear: "Stay away from my Isay!" Melai regrets not being able to spend more time with her family in GenSan. "Thirty minutes lang kami nagkausap," she said. "But I told them 'wag mag-alala, kasi marami na kaming time makapagbonding pag laos na ako (laughs)."

Would she consider cosmetic surgery or breast enhancement as most celebs do, to up their market value? "Takot ako sa injections!" she exclaimed.

What do Melason want to change in each other? "Si Isay dapat wag nya sabihin ang mga 'di dapat sabihin sa publiko," said Jason.

Melai shot back, "Si Sweety Pie naman, dapat 'pag nagpa-kiss siya sa mga girls, cheeks lang. Yung everything niya akin lang 'yon."

It seems their new life after "PBB" hasn't completely sunk in. Melason should tread carefully, lest they stumble. The trappings of fame and fortune can turn into a trap.

■ ■ ■

Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera had the time of their lives in Spain. "It was such an unforgettable experience to spend time with our relatives there," Dong said. "Ibang klaseng bonding kasi we were in a foreign country and they served as our host. My aunt has been living there for 30 years. Marian's dad made our trip all the more memorable by making us extra comfortable."

How did his meeting with her dad go? "It was cool. The trip was really more of a reunion of Marian and her dad because they hadn't seen each other for so long. I didn't want to get into the picture. I'm happy that they finally saw each other after six years."

What was the highlight of their holiday? "It was amazing to drive around a country with a culture similar to ours, relying on the car's GPS, which only gives instructions in Spanish. It's a good thing Marian and I brushed up on basic Spanish skills, which was our ticket back to our destination after getting lost and taking wrong exits on the highways."

Roxanne Guinoo

■ ■ ■

Erich Gonzales was a major headache during a shoot for a top fashion mag. She broke into a tantrum after seeing her hair all curled up. "Ano bang klaseng ayos to?" she screamed. "Ayoko ng ganitong hairdo."

■ ■ ■

Angel Locsin is often spotted hanging out with Parokya Ni Edgar's Chito Miranda and some friends. Will their friendship lead to Chito forming a Parokya Ni Angel soon?

■ ■ ■

Amy Perez is super excited, yet a bit nervous to be back on TV after six years. Her new show on TV5 will have the same format as her defunct show, "Deretshahan."

"The talakan-serye will be an improved version of my old show," she says. "This time, may happy moments and crying time but may resolution among the guests."

What chapter in her life was the most dramatic, just like the explosive confrontation scenes in her show? "Naku! I deleted that part from memory na," she says, laughing. "Para wala nang negative vibes. I'm happy that nakabangon na ako."

■ ■ ■

Tonight after "24 Oras," GMA 7 launches the spin-off to the celebrated masterpiece of Komiks King Carlo J. Caparas, "Panday Kids," based on the all-time Filipino classic, "Ang Panday." It features the adventures of three ordinary kids chosen by the age-old prophecy to save humanity from the evil forces of Lizardo.

It is top-billed by Robert "Buboy" Villar as Oliver, Julian Trono as Hadji and Sabrina Man as Charlie.

The tale begins after the end of the reign of the evil Lizardo in the world. Flavio, the original Panday, has no one else to fight. He left the land and found peace in the supernatural wilderness.

The Panday sword was left in the hands of swordsmen known for their exceptional sword-fighting skills. "Panday Kids" is not just kid stuff.

■ ■ ■

I had the time of my life in Bohol with my BFF Cesar Montano. Buboy and Direk RD Alba invited me to watch the shoot of their indie film, "Biktima," about love in the time of rebellion.

Buboy's leading ladies are Angel Aquino and Mercedes Cabral, who was voted Most Beautiful among the actresses who walked the Red Carpet at the 61st Cannes Film Festival last year. Buboy's gorgeous wife, Sunshine Cruz, Ricky Davao and the film's British producer, actor Phil Smith, have a special participation in Alba's first directorial job.

RD and Buboy have been good friends for many years. They met in LA, where RD studied filmmaking. Buboy waived his talent fee for this film—which doesn't surprise me, because there's nothing my BFF wouldn't do for friends.

Alba and his team will fly back to LA for post-production.

■ ■ ■

Buboy and Shine are celebrating their 10th year anniversary. "We got married secretly Feb. 23," says Shine. "Pinagsabihan ako ng parents ko but wala silang nagawa 'cause I really loved Buboy. Our September 2000 wedding, formality na lang." After a full decade of ups and downs, Buboy and Shine have marriage that's a perfect 10!'

I enjoyed bonding with Ricky Davao in Bohol. He was the picture of a doting father when he called up his kids and described in detail the cruise that we took down Loboc River. He's wrapping up "Working Girls."

"Kakaiba ang team-up ko with Eugene Domingo sa movie," he said. "Mai-involve ako sa character niya in an unexpected way." Among all the films he had done, he said, his favorites were "Saranggola" and "Mga Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya."

We all had a good laugh when Ricky said that he found a copy of the boldest film he has ever made, "White Slavery."

"Sobrang payat ko pa dun," he exclaimed. "Grabe! Pati ako na -shock sa orgy scene namin. Di ko na magagawa ulit 'yun." In my book, Ricky's an actor non-pareil, who outdoes himself in every movie.

■ ■ ■

Angel Aquino is nervous about her role in "Biktima."

"The story revolves around me," she said. "Ka-tense. Sana kay Buboy na lang."

But based on what I saw during the shoot, Angel gave justice to her portrayal. Angel liked the perfume I was wearing, so I gave it to her but she politely said no. "My BF (Lui Villaruz) is allergic to perfume," she explained. "So, di na ko nagpapabango." Ah, the scent of a woman in love!

A Boholano friend told me that when Aljur Abrenica and Kris Bernal shot "Nandito Ako" in Bohol, the rumored GF of Aljur, Rich Asuncion, who is a Boholana, flew in and brought Aljur to her place. Sweetness in Chocolate Hills country!

■ ■ ■

Miriam Quiambao

Is Miriam Quiambao moving to another network? "I'll be portraying a villain role as Aludra in ABS-CBN's Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo," she says. "That's all I have for now. I didn't sign any contract so anything goes." The sought-after beauty queen is not ready to be pinned down by any network or any guy.

■ ■ ■

For almost a decade, they made us believe in love. Such is the magic of Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz's successful love team. On Feb. 24, they are set to cast the magic spell once again via a special post-Valentine reunion for Star Cinema, "Miss You Like Crazy." It is an offbeat romantic tale that explores the wrong side of love, including missteps and infidelity. Their last movie, "One More Chance," earned for them the title of Box Office King & Queen 2007. Will they beat their own record?

Bangs: Happy for Roxanne

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"One woman's loss is another woman's gain," said Bangs Garcia, 22, who replaced Roxanne Guinoo, 24, as lead actress in the Chito Roño drama series "Magkano ang Iyong Dangal" on ABS-CBN.

The afternoon drama, originally intended for a 13-week run, has been extended to 20 weeks. "I guess everything was meant to happen," Bangs told Inquirer on Tuesday. "I'm glad it's doing so well."

The actress added: "I heard from friends that Roxanne is getting married. I feel happy for her, but at the same time regretful. She can still go back to show biz after getting married, kaya lang mababawasan na ang projects."

Roxanne and Bangs first worked together in the 2008 action-drama show "Palos." They reportedly had a rift when Bangs admitted she was going out with Roxanne's ex-boyfriend Jake Cuenca, 22, who played the title role.

Bangs said adjusting to play the character of Carmela Martires in "Magkano ang Iyong Dangal" had been tough. "I got used to a role that's glamorous, feisty and with a strong personality. In the beginning, it was hard shifting to being the shy and soft-spoken Carmela."

Bangs Garcia

Bangs said she and Carmela are really very much alike. "In real life, I'm very simple. 'Di ako maselan. You can bring me anywhere and I'll fit right in," she said.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Edsa recollections of a non-hero

MANILA, Philippines—The country is awash with recollections of the Edsa People Power Revolution 24 years ago. Most of the recollections come from participants on center stage of that momentous historic event—Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Juan Ponce Enrile, Fidel V. Ramos—and their respective camp followers, all rabid partisans. Most of their narratives are self-serving accounts of their role in that great conflict, making them heroes or villains. Victors of epic conflicts write their own versions of history and dictate the terms of abdication of the vanquished.

Over the years, most of these accounts have been published, depicting a resplendent mosaic of the actors' views of history. Despite this kaleidoscopic spectrum of perspectives, the story of Edsa I has remained an engrossing saga of conflict arising from the struggle of an oppressed people to overthrow a tyrannical modern dictatorship and regain their liberty.

No historical event in the Philippines has been chronicled in the press with more voluminous journalistic output and with more passion than Edsa I. As a journalist, I have written about Edsa I anniversaries not as a ritualistic exercise since the original event broke out, but always as an eye-witness with a ringside view and not as a player who made history. At some point, I know someone would ask me where I was when Edsa broke out. To be honest my presence in Manila when the rebellion of Enrile, Ramos, Gregorio Honasan, et al. flared on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, was not by design. It was totally unplanned—as unplanned as the military mutiny that only flared after the discovery of the coup plot against Marcos.

Journalists cannot prefigure great events, but to write history, they must be on the spot at the moment when the action begins. If one is not there on the tipping moment of history, there is no story to tell. Tough, if you are elsewhere. History does not wait for laggards.

When Ferdinand Marcos called a snap election on Nov. 3, 1985 on US TV, I was preparing for a field trip to the Philippines to gather material for an MA thesis on political change in Asia at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. I took a one-month leave from the university's Center of Southeast Asian Studies, and from my duties as foreign news sub-editor at a leading Australian newspaper, the Melbourne Age. I did not expect a political explosion in Manila. I surmised though that the snap election call had cranked up the conflict between the Marcos regime and the opposition. I was curious how this conflict would be resolved. I had been away from Manila for 10 years after I was given a permanent residence in Australia by then Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, following my release from Marcos' prison, Camp Crame, in 1975.

Analysis
By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

When the Enrile-Ramos-Honasan-RAM cabal broke away from Marcos at 6.30 p.m. on Feb. 22, I was on the desk of the Manila Times, which was being published again after it was closed by Marcos in 1972. The editor in chief, former Manila Rep. Titong Roces, and managing editor Vergel Santos took me in to write news analyses. That started my Analysis column in the Manila press. We had been alerted by our reporters Manny Mogato, Sheila Coronel and Malou Mangahas that something was going to blow up at the Camp Aguinaldo press conference being called by Enrile and Ramos. TV films showed soldiers in fatigues frantically hauling sacks of weapons into the camp's social hall as Enrile and Ramos prepared to appear before a battery of media people who packed the social hall. Enrile was slinging an Uzi sub-machinegun. I thought he was ready to die. The rebel soldiers had their shirt sleeves embossed with symbolic Philippine flag patches with the red field up, a declaration of war.

In the early evening, Jaime Cardinal Sin appeared on TV to call out the people to Aguinaldo to protect Enrile and Ramos. Enrile broadcast a confession that Marcos stole the election in Cagayan, his home province.

As midnight approached, streams of people collected in the streets, swelling as the minutes ticked. I was at home in a cousin's place in Tierra Pura in Quezon City. My family and I joined a march on Commonwealth Avenue up to Edsa and melted into the crowd. At midnight we found ourselves at the intersection of Ortigas Avenue and Edsa, at the Department of Labor and Employment building.

I wondered why the tanks did not roll beyond that point to Camp Aguinaldo. I would learn later that their commanders disobeyed orders from Gen. Fabian Ver to assault Aguinaldo. Nuns and priests where throwing themselves on the path of the tanks and embracing them, giving roses to soldiers, while praying the Holy Rosary. It was a moving sight.

By Sunday morning, an impasse developed as more crowds collected after Enrile decided to join Ramos at Camp Crame, where he was going to make his stand. We were at the corner of Annapolis and Edsa, which was flooded with people as Ramos called for more reinforcements from the Philippine Constabulary. Boni Avenue (formerly Santolan Road) in front of one of Crame's gates was clogged by a solid mass of people.

All sorts of people, rich and poor, brought sandwiches and tossed them to the defenders of Crame over the barbed wire fence. Ramos called the rebel soldiers the "New Armed Forces of the Philippines." For the first time since Marcos clamped martial law, the people and the soldiers were friends.

I didn't join the people in the streets to prove that I was brave. I didn't go to Edsa to play hero. Part of the reason I was there was that there was a story to write. If the people were not afraid to die, I didn't have any reason to stay at home. From that moment, I was re-engaged with Philippine journalism after a decade of exile.

EDITORIAL

True meaning

This week, we commemorated the 24th anniversary of People Power. The Edsa revolution ousted a military-backed dictatorship through the world's first peaceful citizens' uprising; other, generally non-violent popular revolts followed in its wake. The first emergence of People Power also put Philippine history back on the right path; it fulfilled Rizal's prophecy about a moral nation finally creating the government it deserved.

We remember Edsa I as a complete event—and it became complete when Corazon Aquino took her oath of office as president in Club Filipino on Feb. 25, and Ferdinand Marcos abandoned Malacañang Palace by nightfall of the same day.

To commemorate Edsa I on Feb. 22, as Malacañang bade us do this year, carries the risk of privileging the action of the reformist military rebels who triggered the crisis, over the startling, completely unexpected and still profoundly moving reaction of the citizens themselves to resolve the crisis.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, or three weeks after the so-called Snap Election, the Reform the Armed Forces faction in the Marcos military attempted to seize power; the plan was discovered even before the attempt could be made in earnest; as a defensive maneuver, the military rebels retreated at first to Camp Aguinaldo and then, on the advice of Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, to the smaller, easier-to-defend Camp Crame. On the night of Feb. 22, Butz Aquino, brother of the assassinated martyr Ninoy Aquino and a leader of the so-called parliament of the streets, mobilized a sizable group to support the rebels. Not too long after, Jaime Cardinal Sin, the influential archbishop of Manila, called on the people themselves to defend Juan Ponce Enrile, RAM's real leader, Ramos and the rebels. Thus began Edsa I.

Enrile, now Senate president, has not been shy about his preference for Feb. 22 as the turning point, and thus the date of the real anniversary, of the Edsa revolution. But the unprecedented action of millions of Filipino citizens took shape over the next three days—and served to purge the "revolution of the people," as Ramos described it with great accuracy, of its militarist element. To put it bluntly, if Marcos had fled the palace grounds on the night of Feb. 22, the country would have woken up the next day to a military junta.

It was only through the unselfish action of millions of citizens, who marched to Edsa to protect the rebels with their very lives and stop the tanks in their tracks, that the crisis that led to Edsa was redeemed, became part of the narrative of democratic restoration.

The real anniversary is Feb. 25, the day Marcos surrendered the Palace and Cory assumed the presidency.

We remember this fundamental truth with greater clarity because this week marks the first Edsa I anniversary we will celebrate after Cory's death. Heightened public interest in her agonizing last days and (especially) the massive outpouring of grief and affection that attended her funeral have helped a scandal-weary nation recover a sense of its better self. Millions of Filipinos shared the same thought: "This is what we were capable of then, a generation ago."

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Magsaysay and the busted spark plugs

Edward Geary Lansdale is a fascinating character in Philippine history. His work is the stuff of legend and he left us with a wonderful memoir, "In the Midst of Wars: America's Mission to Southeast Asia" (New York, 1972), filled with amusing anecdotes that soften and obscure the more violent side of his career. To neutralize the Huks in the 1950s Lansdale and Col. Napoleon Valeriano set up the Nenita Brigade, which carried out extra-judicial killings, with the end made to justify the means.

A friend texted to comment on the anecdote I shared last Wednesday regarding Lansdale's use of Philippine folklore, in this case the aswang, in counter-insurgency. She said that the Philippine aswang doesn't leave two holes on the neck, Western Vampire-style. Our aswang, she reminded me, come armed with long pointed tongues that puncture the victims and work like a straw to suck out not just blood and viscera but their favorite, unborn babies, as well.

These tongues were useful when people still lived in houses with thatch roof and bamboo-slat flooring. GI sheets and concrete drove the aswang to extinction. The poor things cannot even fly in an urban environment without getting caught in TV antennas and illegal cable and electric connections.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The text exchange on the aswang made me realize that Lansdale's amusing anecdote makes us forget the poor Huk who was sacrificed for this now not-so-amusing bit of psywar.

Lansdale had many nicknames in Manila: "Bigote" (because he had a moustache), "Eagle" (because of his initials "EGL"), and, following Magsaysay's victory in the 1953 presidential elections, "Lanslide."

It is said that Lansdale was the inspiration for the main character in Graham Greene's 1955 novel "The Quiet American" which was made into a film of the same title in 1958 and re-made in 2002. Lansdale also inspired the 1958 best-selling novel "The Ugly American" by Eugene Burdick and William Lederer. One can only conclude that history is indeed written by the victors.

It is hoped that those who went through and survived the Huk rebellion of the 1950s will put pen to paper and complete our picture of that chapter of our history. So far the only other book available on the topic was written by yet another American, Joseph Burkholder Smith, who published "Portrait of a Cold Warrior: Second Thoughts of a Top CIA Agent" (1981).

Lansdale's book is quite hard to find. I am fortunate to have an autographed copy, inscribed to the late interior decorator Wili Fernandez who in his youth drew some advertising copy for Lansdale. The chapters on Magsaysay and the elections are quite relevant these days when we face a handful of individuals who want to become president. As promised I will write a series of columns on elections in Philippine history, but today I want to share something relevant to the news that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes were granted bail by the courts but will remain imprisoned because their crimes in civil courts may be bailable but there is no such thing in military courts martial.

If I remember right, one of the issues raised by the Oakwood mutineers was that some unscrupulous people in the military and defense department were buying substandard materials and supplies and, worse, selling arms and ammunition to the enemy! If this is true, not much seems to have changed in the past half-century. Lansdale wrote:

"Two evils practiced by the Huks were curbed to some extent by technical means. One was the nasty habit they had of throwing hand grenades from ambush onto jeeps carrying wounded soldiers. The other evil was the Huk practice of buying ammunition from corrupt suppliers on the government side. I took up the problems with the Philippine Army's intelligence and research chiefs. Once we found the Huk's clandestine channel of supply, I asked them if contaminated ammunition could be made and inserted into the stocks being delivered secretly to the Huks. They agreed. After weeks of work by the two chiefs, wounded soldiers started reporting that they had heard grenades going off in roadside ambush positions—exploding right in the hands of Huk ambushers. Incidents of attacks on the wounded declined sharply. Meanwhile, government combat troops reported a curious new phenomenon on the battlefield. Huk rifle barrels were exploding from the use of faulty ammunition. It came as small surprise that the illicit sale of ammunitions to the Huks ground to a halt. Dirty tricks beget dirty tricks."

Lansdale also recounted that at one time a tank stopped and failed to support the infantry fighting the Huks. Magsaysay opened the engine and, using skills he learned as a mechanic, found the problem: busted spark plugs. The tank was brand new, someone had exchanged the new spark plugs for old ones and made money. Magsaysay swore a lot and had the chief of ordnance placed under house arrest pending an investigation.

Is history repeating itself here? Not really; it is we who keep repeating it.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

ISLAND VISITORS

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ramon "Ray" A. Tebuteb speaks to World War II veterans, their families, and relatives of other war heroes at the American Memorial Park during the group's visit to the island on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010.

World War II veterans and their families offer flowers and prayers for fallen comrades during a simple ceremony at the American Memorial Park. The group was scheduled to visit all historical war sites on Saipan and Tinian and see how these places have changed in many years.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

EPA HEARING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Public Lands officials meet with members of the public to provide updates on the Marpi ordnance cleanup project and receive feedback from them. Community members present at the meeting were particularly concerned about the "end use" of the area, now that it has been cleaned up of unexploded war ordnance.

Former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, right, listen to testimony during a meeting Wednesday night with officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Public Lands on the cleanup of the 624,000 square meters of public land in Marpi and its end use plan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LUNAR NEW YEAR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos, center, graces the Chinese Association of Saipan's Lunar New Year celebration this past Saturday. From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry P. Tenorio, Johnny Fong, Association chair Jerry Tan, and Ta Bun Kuy.

WINNING TEAM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to the GCA Junior High Academic Bee Team for winning second place in the recently concluded Islandwide Academic Challenge Bowl held last Saturday at Saipan Southern High School. This competition is for private and public junior high school on the island.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Sto. Nino Group of Saipan expresses its belated birthday greetings to Mang Jhonny Reyes who celebrated his birthday last Sunday, Feb. 21, in his residence in Upper Kanat Tabla. Photo shows the celebrant with his wife Rossy and daughter Roxan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our loving Dario—Sgt. Vicente Olopai Tagabuel, who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 27. May you have more healthy and prosperous years and blessings to come! We love you always Dad. Greetings come from Jojo and Shaun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings to Jun Antatico who celebrated his birthday last Wednesday, Feb. 17 at his residence on Airport Road, Saipan. Greetings coming from the Sto. Nino Group of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our loving husband and daddy Myron Laniyo, who celebrated his birthday on Feb. 24. God bless and may you have many more birthdays to come. Love always coming from Baby Kailani Lucil and wifey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings, with wishes for many more to come for our February birthday celebrants, from left, Kye-Jamaal Taro, who had his birthday on Feb. 9; Barbara Taro, who will celebrate her special day on Feb. 28; and Sisior Romolor, who celebrated her birthday on Feb. 14. Also in photo is baby E.J. We love you all! Greetings come from Samantha, Slade, Koby, and Elijah-Jayvon.

COURTESY VISIT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew Randazzo, Chief Growth & Strategy Officer of the Junior State of America recently paid a visit to acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos at the Office of the Governor. Randazzo was very appreciative of the many years of participation by CNMI students in the Junior Statesmen Foundation's summer programs.

YoungStyle

First Lady aims for kids in top physical form with minds to match

By ROBIN GIVHAN
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—First lady Michelle Obama sits in her East Wing office, a bowl of fresh apples on a nearby table. She wears a body-conscious gray sleeveless sheath with an artful corsage of matching fabric. A Georgetown University student—one of the young women from the White House mentoring program Obama established last year—quietly observes as the first lady discusses the role physical fitness played in her Chicago girlhood.

The tableau contains all the elements that have defined Obama's time in the White House: youth outreach, distinctive style, healthful food and fitness. Of all these, nutrition and physical activity are key to the legacy Obama would like to leave. They're essential to her national rallying cry to end the crisis of childhood obesity in a generation.

Obama launched her sweeping initiative, Let's Move, in an early February publicity surge that had her discussing "food deserts" and the urgency of clearer labeling. She lobbied the National Governors Association before its members partied at the White House. She visited schools and at a Philadelphia grocery store pulled out a $20 bill to buy a banana-strawberry smoothie. The statistics she has repeated are both jarring and daunting: One in three children is overweight or obese. The dollars she has proposed the federal government dedicate to the dilemma are significant: at least $10 billion over 10 years.

Most of the attention has focused on the nutrition part of the equation — thanks in large part to her vegetable garden that took on astonishing international significance. Let's Move aims to make wide-ranging improvements to the eating habits of a food-addled society. Fitness is a less discussed, yet crucial, piece of her initiative. She will unveil the details of a comprehensive fitness agenda in the coming weeks.

"If kids are naturally active, they shouldn't have to worry about what they eat. That's how it was when we were growing up. Nobody talked to you about nutrition. You ate your vegetables. You ate what was on your plate. And you went outside and played. There wasn't a need for structured activity," she says in an interview in her office. "The physical education piece is about exploring that. In our nation, what happened? What have been the cultural trends that have led us away from that regular exercise and activity that kids used to get?"

The days when children came home from school and went outside to play until the streetlights came on aren't coming back, Obama acknowledges. She wants to lead the way in finding contemporary, healthy traditions.

"How do we answer the questions or give solutions or approaches to parents in all different kinds of communities?" she asks rhetorically. "There are going to be kids who can't just go out and play. They're home alone or their neighborhoods aren't safe. ... Or what about families that are living out in rural areas where they don't have a car and can't go to the local soccer field?"

THE WASHINGTON POST

First lady Michelle Obama, shown in her East Wing office in the White House, launched her sweeping initiative, Let's Move, in an early February. In an exclusive interview, she talks about some of the points of her comprehensive fitness agenda that she will unveil in the coming weeks.

"We have to decide as a nation that physical activity and nutrition and all that stuff is just as important as test scores and good grades, textbooks and everything else we make the trade off for," she says. Failure to make those things a priority "can kill our kids."

■■■

Growing up in Chicago, Obama was a self-described "tall, lanky, crazy-skinny kid." She has never had to battle the scale in significant ways. As a child, her daily routine included dashing outside after school, where she rode her bicycle, played tag and jumped double Dutch.

"In my mind, I still picture the neighborhood where we played," she says. "You'd maybe take a break and sit on the stoop or run inside to get water, but you were doing that just to get it done because you didn't want to miss out on anything."

"If I'm more reflective, because my father had multiple sclerosis and physical movement wasn't a given for him, as I talk to my brother now, neither one of us took our physical fitness for granted. We knew our father was a jock when he grew up—he boxed—and to see him go from that so quickly, without any warning, to someone who couldn't walk without crutches, you don't take that for granted."

For the first lady, physical activity wasn't a matter of dutiful exercise; it wasn't scheduled. It was family time with her father.

"He did his best to always get out there with us. When he'd come home from work, if he was on a shift that would allow him to, we'd be boxing or throwing the ball or playing dodge ball. There was always some game involved."

As a kid in the late '60s and early '70s, Obama was on the cusp of the generation of women who reaped the full benefits from Title IX, a law giving girls equal access to sports. Title IX was enacted in 1972, when Obama was 8. "Even though I was a bit of a tomboy then, there weren't organized leagues for girls that I can recall," she says.

She never played any sports with dedication, although she ran a bit of track in high school, "but by then I was more focused on academics," she says.

In contrast, her older brother, Craig Robinson, went on to basketball stardom at Princeton University and now coaches the Oregon State men's basketball team. "Once he got to the age of being on team sports, we'd spend all our time in the gym watching his games," she says. "I could throw and I could catch, but that's what the boys did."

■■■

Fun, Fly & Fit, a project launched in 2010 by the United Way of the National Capital Area that brings mobile gym classes into schools, churches and community centers, is a program almost tailored to the first lady's childhood obesity initiative. It's grass-roots and free; it provides children and their parents with nutrition information; and it focuses on the importance of play. And it has a secret weapon: celebrity trainer Mark Jenkins.

Jenkins has both the physique and the carriage that one would expect of a former Navy recruit and the cheerleading personality of someone who guided music mogul Sean Combs to a four-hour finish in the New York City Marathon after only two months of preparation. Jenkins' height hovers at six feet; his legs are like tree trunks and his biceps are sharply defined. As the spokesman for Fun, Fly & Fit, he brings razzle-dazzle to the nation's overly sedentary children. For free. He doesn't offer magical formulas for curing what Surgeon General Regina Benjamin described in a recent report as an epidemic of overweight and obese children who are on track to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents. He just brings motivation.

"The biggest problem with the fitness community is just because something is the right thing to do doesn't mean you don't have to market it," Jenkins says.

His message echoes what the first lady describes in her regular plea: She tells young people "whether you feel it or not, your best days are ahead, really, if you make some good short-term decisions and don't do stupid things. The bulk of your life is left ahead. And if you've got some money, you've got a job, you don't want to be in the hospital because you have high blood pressure. You don't want to take insulin shots."

Jenkins takes that message and puts it in vivid, music video color. He tells kids how the stars train. He also cuts to the bottom-line: Obese people make less money. The children take notice.

The first lady reassures her audiences that healthy eating doesn't have to mean a lifetime of steamed broccoli and grilled chicken by describing her love for fries and burgers. She takes the same approach with fitness. She has told many audiences of the pleasures in slacking off.

Obama might have been a pre-teen jock, but she came to fitness—in its modern form as a scheduled activity—late. "I've been much more physically active since I've had kids: going to aerobics class, going to a trainer, going to the gym, eventually taking up tennis and playing that a little bit more."

When Obama was a child, Frasier Robinson taught his daughter to play, by his undaunted example. Eventually, the games were replaced by academics, work, marriage and kids. It would be Marian Robinson who would teach her adult daughter how to play again — not by example, but in the form of her own regrets.

"I didn't see a mother who had a career. I didn't see a mother who invested in herself and worked out, went to the hairdresser. My parents sacrificed everything for us. And that, in so many ways, made us who we are. But she will even tell me today that she wouldn't want me to do that for my girls," the first lady says. "Fortunately, I had a mother who taught me through her own failings and could admit, `This is what I would have done differently.' And I think because of that honesty, her openness, I feel more confident about showing my girls now that you invest in yourself.

"Because of my mother I feel more comfortable saying, `You're going to stay with Dad and I'm going to the gym.' " One woman's regret becomes a first lady's call for action.

Olympic fun and games

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is the author of such kids' sports books as "Touchdown Trouble" and "Soccer Team Upset."

Like many people, I have been watching the Winter Olympics. Here are a few thoughts—some important, some silly—I have had during the Games.

■ The Olympics are always full of surprises. Skier Bode Miller was supposed to be America's big star in the 2006 Winter Olympics, but he didn't win a medal. This time, no one expected much from Miller, and he has won three medals.

■ The American skiers have done great in Vancouver. Sports Illustrated predicted the United States would win four Alpine skiing medals. The American team had won eight through Wednesday's races.

■ Curling is surprisingly fun to watch. I wonder if the players practice by sweeping around their houses.

■ People argued whether the costumes of Russian ice dancers Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin offended Australian aborigines. I don't know, but they sure looked silly.

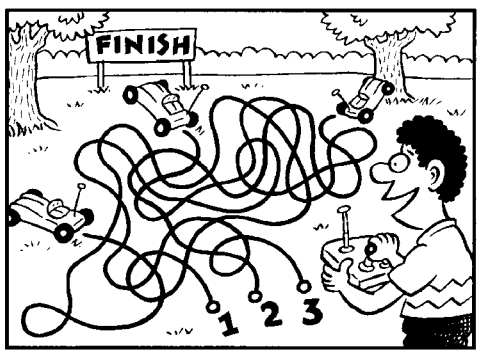
■ Speaking of costumes, the uniforms worn by the U.S. snowboarders make them look like they are Minnesota high schoolers.

■ American snowboarder Shaun White is unbelievable. The Flying Tomato, as White is called because of his red hair, had already won the gold medal in the halfpipe, but he did a Double McTwist 1260 just for fun.

■ The Olympics always has a problem with figure skating. This year, Russian figure skater Evgeni Plushenko complained that he should have won the men's gold medal instead of American Evan Lysacek.

■ There are so many close races that I feel terrible for the athlete who comes in fourth and misses out on a medal. For example, Werner Heel of Italy missed a bronze medal in the men's super-G ski race by two one-hundredths of a second. That's a blink of an eye.

■ The TV coverage has had stories about the sacrifices of the athletes. But at least these athletes made it to the Olympics. Some athletes train just as hard and never make it to the Olympics. That's a good reminder that if you play a sport, you should play because you love it, not because you may get a medal.



RADIO RODNEY WINS AGAIN! Can you guess which car belongs to Rodney?

Answer: Number 3.

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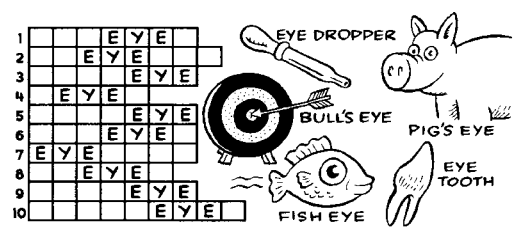
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CAST YOUR EYES ON THIS PUZZLE!



The "eyes" have it when it comes to interesting words. The grid to the left has room for 10 words, and they all contain an "eye." Hints are given below.

1. What the bad golfer did.
2. Native American buffalo hunters.
3. An expert marksman.
4. Ruined auto paint job.
5. What the weary cowboy needed.
6. How the weary cowboy came into town.
7. To look over.
8. What the predator did.
9. Ohio's nickname.
10. What they did before the king.

Answers: 1. Bogeyed. 2. Cheyenne. 3. Deadeye. 4. Keyed. 5. Shuteye. 6. Moseyed. 7. Eyeball. 8. Preyed. 9. Buckeye (State). 10. Outsteyed.

Illustrated by David Coulson

FREDDIE THE FEATHER FANCIER! The other day, Freddie bought 20 birds for $20. Pigeon cost $4 each, canaries 50 cents each, and budgies 25 cents each. Can you figure out how many of each he bought?

Answer: He bought 3 pigeons, 15 canaries and 2 budgies.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1. RIP	HERS
2. OVER	LED
3. CAP	ROT
4. BUST	PLED
5. WIT	ABLE
6. PAR	AGES

Answers: Rippled, overages, capable, bustled, withers, parrot.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American sports writer Art Spander who made the following sage observation: "The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid."

■ With only two known to exist, the rarest U.S. postage stamp is the 1-cent 1868 Benjamin Franklin Z-Grill, so called because of the shape that was impressed into the stamp. One of the Z-Grills is in the collection of the New York Public Library, and the other was sold in 1998 for $935,000. That's not the end of the story, though; in October of 2005, the same stamp was traded for a block of stamps valued at $3 million.

■ The next time you're eating an Oreo cookie, consider this: It takes 90 minutes to make each cookie, and each one has precisely 90 ridges on the rim.

■ Hindus do not eat eggs, believing them to be a valuable source of life.

■ It may be hard to believe, but there is an official competition to see who can sit in a sauna for the longest period of time. The World Sauna Championships have taken place in Heinola, Finland, annually since 1999. The starting temperature is a sweltering 110 degrees Celsius (230 F), and a liter of water is poured on the stove every 30 seconds. The winner is the last person who is able to leave the sauna without assistance. Competitors participate at their own risk, and they are required to sign a waiver agreeing not to take legal action against the event organizers.

The word hippopotamus comes from the Greek for "river horse."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The only really good place to buy lumber is at a store where the lumber has already been cut and attached together in the form of furniture, finished, and put inside boxes."—Dave Barry

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MAGIC MAZE ● ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

U A S S A N T Q I N A G U A O
M J S A N S A L V A D O R H F
M C A Y M N I W U R P E S S N
L A J H D U I E F D H B I I Z
S X Y R V N X T S T R D G R Q
O N O A I M K E U I E I N U H
F S I M G D B E E K D Z O O Y
W V I L T U L R O H Q A L B O
N B L T K E A O K I T H R R F
D C A Z A C R N X R U M C A Y
W V U S O C A B A E H T S H P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Acklins	Crooked Is.	Long Is.	San Salvador
Andros	Eleuthera	Mayaguana	The Abacos
Bimini	Harbour Is.	Paradise Is.	The Exumas
Cat Is.	Inagua	Rum Cay	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		–		21
–		÷		–	
	+		x		25
x		+		x	
	+		÷		5
14		13		12	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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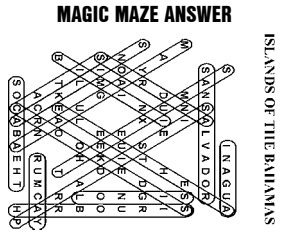
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

6	x	5	÷	3	21
–	9	–	8	+	7
4	+	1	x	5	25
–	÷	2	+	x	5
14	–	13	x	12	6

Introducing new dog to cats in residence

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two indoor cats, and I am going to have a dog soon. My question is, what is the best way to introduce them, and how long will it take to get them used to each other. We are going to have a baby gate, so the dog doesn't have the run of the house.—Lesley G, via e-mail

DEAR LESLEY: The baby gate is a good start. It will limit the new dog's range, which will reduce the potential for fear and stress in your cats as they get accustomed to the newcomer.

You'll also want to introduce the new dog very gradually, and avoid any aggression on the part of either the cats or the dog. If the dog is a puppy, introduction may be easier; if the dog is older, proceed very cautiously, as he or she may already have some experience with cats, perhaps negative.

So ... introductions. All contact between the cats and dog must be supervised, particularly in the early stages. Hold the dog and allow the cats to approach and observe the newcomer. Give out treats all around as soon as you bring the dog in.

Keep the initial contact time low—about 5 minutes at first—and slowly build that interaction time until the cats

can tolerate having a dog in the same space for a half-hour or more.

The instant that any of the pets shows aggression—hissing, growling, lunging and so on—remove the dog from the room. Never let it escalate into a physical attack. Pets do not "work it out" like humans do, and a physical confrontation has negative repercussions that can make it impossible for the pets to ever interact.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. And find more pet resources at PawsCorner.com.

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Perk up your child on a sick day

If a flu or cold bug has invaded your house this winter, you know firsthand how the family routine is instantly thrown out of sync. All it takes is one sick child on a weekday morning, and the telephone is abuzz as you frantically rearrange work schedules and piano lessons, request homework assignments and try desperately to find the pediatrician's phone number.

But once the initial crisis has passed and your child starts perking up, it's nice to offer unqualified TLC to cheer him up. Here are some get-well ideas for recuperating kids:

■ Misery loves company. Dress up and accessorize your child's favorite teddy bear using items that show he also is feeling under the weather: a compress on his forehead; a snuggly sweater to keep warm; a small, cuddly plush toy to hold in his paw; and a special book to read over and over.

■ Serve snacks and simple meals to your child in a muffin tin. Place the juice cup and food items in the individual compartments for an easy-to-handle meal.

■ As your child's appetite improves, tempt the taste buds beyond chicken noodle soup and soda crackers. Make simple menus on index cards that include a variety of healthy foods to choose from. Leave a space after each item, and let your child check off the choices of juice,

cereal, pasta, fruit, etc.

■ If your child orders toast or a sandwich, turn it into a smiling face by cutting the edges to form a circle. Arrange raisins, banana slices and pretzels on top to make the face. If your child has chickenpox, humor him with a few red-hot candies dotting the portrait.

Health Tip: When your child must cough, teach him to bend his arm in front of him toward the opposite shoulder. Then cough into the crease of his arm at the elbow.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

'Idol' eliminates
2 female, 2 male semifinalists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first four "American Idol" semifinalists have been sent packing.

"Idol" contestants Janell Wheeler, Ashley Rodriguez, Joe Munoz and Tyler Grady were revealed Thursday to be the two female and male semifinalists with the fewest viewer votes, leaving 20 singers to compete in the popular Fox singing competition's ninth season.

Grady, the 20-year-old throwback singer from Nazareth, Pa., didn't go without a fight.

"I really like all the judges," said Grady, who was jeered after his performance of The Guess Who's "American Woman" on Wednesday's performance episode. "I've really had a great time with them, but I feel like I didn't really get much constructive criticism during 'Hollywood Week,' and I feel like what they told me was a little bit too late."

Wheeler, a 24-year-old wine sales representative from Tampa, Fla., and Rodriguez, a 22-year-old college student from Chelsea, Mass., were the first semifinalists dismissed. Viewers must have agreed with judge Simon Cowell that Wheeler did not give it "100 percent" on Heart's "What About Love" and that Rodriguez's rendition of Leona Lewis' "Happy" was "clumsy."

"I am going to sing a song!" Rodriguez declared to host Ryan Seacrest after her ouster.

The eliminations of male semifinalists Grady and Munoz, the 20-year-old crooner of Huntington Park, Calif., who sang Jason Mraz's "You and I Both" to mixed reviews from the panel, shocked the fellow singers standing by their sides. The eyes of Tim Urban, a 20-year-old college student from Duncanville, Texas, widened when he heard it was Munoz instead of him.

Alex Lambert, a 19-year-old high school student from North Richland Hills, Texas, who had what Cowell deemed "the most uncomfortable performance of the night," was apparently censored for whatever he said after Grady was eliminated.

A Fox spokeswoman did not immediately respond to clarify why the audio was dropped on the East Coast broadcast at that moment.

Before the final elimination, eighth season winner Kris Allen returned to "Idol" to talk about his recent trip to earthquake-ravaged Haiti and perform The Beatles' "Let It Be." Viewers were asked to make donations online or by text-messaging, with the money going to the Idol Gives Back Foundation to support the United Nations Foundation's work in Haiti.

1939 Batman comic sells for more than $1M

DALLAS (AP)—A 1939 comic book in which Batman makes his debut sold at auction Thursday for more than $1 million, breaking a record set just three days earlier by a Superman comic, Heritage Auction Galleries said.

The Dallas-based auction house said the rare copy of Detective Comics No. 27 sold for a total of $1,075,500, which includes the buyer's premium, to a buyer who wished to remain anonymous. The consigner wanted to remain anonymous as well.

"It pretty much blew away all of our expectations and now it's the highest price ever raised for a comic book," said Barry Sandoval, director of operations of Heritage's comics division.

A copy of the first comic book featuring Superman, a 1938 edition of Action Comics No. 1, sold Monday for $1 million in a sale between a private seller and a private buyer, with the transaction conducted by the New York City auction site ComicConnect.com.

"We can really say that Batman has nosed out Superman, at least for now," Sandoval said.

He said the consigner had bought the Batman comic in the late 1960s for $100. With a bright yellow background, the comic features Batman swinging on a rope above city rooftops.

AP

This undated photo provided by Heritage Auction Galleries shows a 1939 copy of Detective Comics #27, with the first appearance of Batman.

"That cover is just one of the most famous of all comic book covers," Sandoval said.

J.C. Vaughn, associate publisher of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide, said most people had predicted it would be the comics with the first appearance of Superman and Batman that broke the $1 million barrier. Both comics that sold this week were in great condition—scoring an 8.0 on a scale that goes up to 10, he said.

"I think that you can greenly ascribe this to a real comfort with the liquidity of rare, high grade vintage collectibles," Vaughn said.

George Pantela, owner of Melbourne, Australia-based GP Analysis, which tracks sales of certified comics from more than 20 auction houses and dealers, said the previous record was about $317,000 paid a year ago for a lesser grade Action Comics No. 1 than the one sold this week.

Vincent Zurzolo, chief operating officer of Comicconnect.com, took the breaking of their record in stride.

"It's an exciting week in comic books when you have two comics selling for $1 million," he said.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late

Juan Cruz Aguon

Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far, for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the aches in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We acknowledged and cherished the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you.

We extend our special thanks to His Excellency Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Fr. Ray Rosal, Fr. Celso G. Magbanua Jr., and Fr. Manny Corcuera.

May God continue to Bless us all.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Familian Ma'me

In this Feb. 11, 2010 file photo, singer Whitney Houston performs at Saitama Arena in Saitama, near Tokyo, Japan. AP

Whitney Houston: Tour great, despite bad reports

NEW YORK (AP)—Though video postings of her recent performances in Australia have been less than flattering, Whitney Houston says her tour is going great—and she's in great health.

Houston's publicist, Kristen Foster, released a statement Thursday, saying: "Whitney is in great health and having a terrific time on her tour and with her fans. She said more than 9,000 people attended Houston's show in Brisbane and more than 12,000 were at Acer Arena in Sydney.

"Her fans were dancing and singing along with her and Whitney appreciates their support," Foster said.

That view contrasts with news reports quoting disgruntled fans who are complaining about the star's voice and performance. Video snippets of Houston struggling to hit notes in concerts in Sydney and Brisbane have circulated widely on YouTube and other outlets.

The 46-year-old, who is one of pop's all-time best-selling artists, staged a comeback last year with her first album in seven years, "I Look to You." It debuted at the top of the album charts.

During her hiatus from music, she battled drug addiction and ended a tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown. But as she returned last year, she declared herself healthy and free from substance abuse.

This is Houston's first tour in years. It started in February in South Korea and will take her to Europe until at least May. Foster said there currently are no plans for a United States tour.

Stars of Burton's 'Alice' at London premiere

LONDON (AP)—Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and other stars of Tim Burton's fantasy 3D film "Alice in Wonderland" braved pouring rain to attend the movie's London premiere Thursday.

The stars were joined by director Burton, Anne Hathaway and hundreds of screaming fans who turned up for the event in central London's Leicester Square despite a steady downpour.

The premiere came after British movie theater chain Odeon said it had resolved a dispute with Walt Disney Pictures about the release date for the DVD version. Odeon had said it wouldn't show the film in its cinemas in Britain, Ireland and Italy because it objected to Disney's decision to release the DVD earlier than usual, but the chain said Thursday the dispute was over.

Odeon didn't disclose details, and there was no immediate comment from Disney. Burton told a press conference earlier Thursday he was relieved the issue was resolved.

"I'm just glad it's resolved. We made it 3D to be shown in the 3D screens and so I'm just very happy and grateful," he said.

The movie—inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic children's tale—tells the story of the heroine's return to the world down the rabbit-hole at the age of 19.

Depp plays the Mad Hatter, Hathaway is the White Queen, Bonham Carter is a bulbous-headed Red Queen and Australian newcomer Mia Wasikowska plays Alice.

Burton said the movie's 3D effects enhance the fantastic, surreal world it describes.

"3D and Alice seem to fit," Burton told Sky News. "There's something about the trippiness of the Alice world that helps bring you into that 3D space."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

10 billionth song sold by Apple's iTunes

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple's iTunes has sold its 10 billionth tune. Apple said Thursday that its online music store crossed the threshold Wednesday when 71-year-old Louie Sulcer (SUL'-sir) of Woodstock, Ga., bought "Guess Things Happen That Way" by Johnny Cash. iTunes had promoted the 10 billion mark and celebrated the milestone by giving Sulcer a $10,000 iTunes gift card. Introduced in 2003, iTunes became the top overall music retailer in the U.S. in 2008.

Jennifer Lopez announces split from Sony

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez is off of Sony's block. The singing and acting diva has confirmed she has split from Sony Music after more than a decade. Sony's Epic Records put out her first CD, "On The 6," in 1999. Since then, she's sold millions, but also had a couple of CDs with disappointing sales. A new album called "Love?" was due to be released by the label this spring. But in a statement released Tuesday night, Lopez said: "At this point, I have fulfilled all my contractual obligations to Sony/Epic (and) we have come to an amicable decision." Lopez says she has a new label home and her album will be out in the summer, but she did not specify the label.

Coroner: Casey Johnson's death diabetes related

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An autopsy has confirmed that Los Angeles socialite Casey Johnson died of a complication of diabetes. The Los Angeles County coroner's report released Thursday showed the 30-year-old Johnson, an heir to the Johnson & Johnson health care products fortune, died of diabetic ketoacidosis. Diabetic ketoacidosis is a life-threatening condition caused by lack of insulin and sky-high blood sugar. The report showed toxicological tests were negative for drugs. The autopsy was conducted Jan. 5, a day after Johnson's body was found at her home. Johnson was the daughter of New York Jets owner Robert "Woody" Johnson. She was engaged to bisexual reality TV star Tila Tequila at the time of her death. Johnson had been an insulin-dependent diabetic since childhood.

Debt collectors turned away at Wayne Newton home

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police say sheriff's deputies were turned away from Wayne Newton's sprawling Las Vegas home while trying to collect a $500,000 court judgment. Las Vegas police said Thursday that guards at Newton's house refused to accept documents, and moving vans and Clark County sheriff's civil division deputies left after less than 45 minutes. Police say the case now returns to Clark County District Court, where a judge last June ruled that Newton owed his former pilot more than $400,000 in back pay. A lawyer for pilot Monty Ward told the Las Vegas Sun the amount due topped $501,388 last month and is growing at more than $125 per day. Ward's lawyer, John Muije (MEW'-jee) and Newton representatives did not immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

Leif Garrett pleads not guilty in LA drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Leif Garrett has pleaded not guilty in a felony drug possession case in Los Angeles. The plea came Wednesday during the arraignment of the musician and former teen heartthrob. Defense attorney Andrew Flier said authorities illegally searched Garrett before he was arrested Feb. 1 for investigation of carrying heroin in the city subway system. Flier says Garrett disputes the contention that he was nervous and sweating profusely, which prompted his search and arrest. Garrett, who is free on bail, did not speak to reporters. The 48-year-old has had a series of drug arrests since the height of his popularity in the 1970s. Flier says Garrett sought help after those arrests and accepted responsibility but plans to fight the latest case.

NYPD investigating Seinfeld parking placard

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Police Department is investigating why a Bronx police placard was displayed in comedian Jerry Seinfeld's car. Seinfeld spokeswoman Elizabeth Clark Zoia on Wednesday said the performer wasn't aware of the parking placard, which belonged to Seinfeld's longtime driver, a retired police officer. She says the driver became concerned for Seinfeld's safety when he arrived with the comedian to the studio where his new show is being filmed and found a crowd outside. She says the driver apparently posted the placard briefly so he could escort Seinfeld inside. The spokeswoman says Seinfeld is sorry and takes responsibility for the incident, which won't be repeated. She says the driver won't be fired. Police say their records indicate the paper placard had been turned in at the end of 2007, and they're investigating.

Police say 'Growing Pains' actor Koenig found dead

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Vancouver police say "Growing Pains" actor Andrew Koenig has been found dead. At a press conference in the downtown park where his body was found, police said foul play was not suspected, but would not release a cause of death because the coroner is still investigating. The actor's father, Walter Koenig, said his son "took his own life." Walter Koenig played Pavel Chekov on the original "Star Trek" TV series. Friends found the body at around noon Thursday in a heavily wooded area about 100 feet (30 meters) from a popular foot path. Koenig, 41, was visiting friends in Vancouver when he went missing more than a week ago. The Venice, California, native had a recurring role on the 1980s sitcom as Boner, a pal of star Kirk Cameron's character, Mike.

Teen being offered sex needs a talk with dad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend is very sweet. The problem is, she wants to have sex with me. I don't think I am ready for that. I also don't know how to approach my parents about this. I really need some help —fast!
NOT READY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NOT READY: Your girlfriend may not be as interested in having sex with you as she may be in doing what she thinks you may expect from her. That's why you should have a talk with her and tell her that, at this point, you don't think you are ready. You may find she's relieved to hear it.

Because you find this subject too delicate to talk to both your parents about, I recommend you bring it up with one of them —your father, perhaps. You don't have to start the talk by announcing that you're being pressured into sex. Instead, start out by saying there is talk around your school about the number of kids who are having sex and you'd like to talk about it. If he isn't comfortable with discussing this with you—and I'm pretty sure that won't be the case -- then talk to a counselor at school about the fact that you need some direction.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Kayley" has been asking me to set up a playdate for her and her friend "Julie." I have met Julie's parents on a few occasions -- the playground, school events, etc. For some reason, I feel uncomfortable around them. I thought I smelled alcohol on her father's breath when we were at the playground, and he also said some things that seemed inappropriate.

I've been avoiding the playdate request because I know if we invite Julie, she will probably invite my daughter to her house to reciprocate. I don't think I can leave Kayley at their house.

I keep making up excuses, but Kayley is persistent. I don't want to tell her that I'm not comfortable with Julie's parents or the prospect of having her go to their house because I'm afraid she might repeat what I say to Julie. What should I do?

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS IN MAINE

DEAR AT A LOSS: Stop making excuses and invite Julie to play at your home. When Julie's mother offers to reciprocate, tell her—sweetly—that you prefer playdates be at your home. Period. Do not be defensive about it, just firm.

P.S. You may be worried over nothing because Julie's mother may not make that offer you're dreading.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Ben," is a loving, caring, big-hearted and sincere man, but I have a problem with the way he presents himself in public. His clothing is frequently stained, wrinkled and ill-fitting, and he doesn't seem to care. He even wears clothing with holes and rips. Some of his clothes look like they haven't seen a washing machine in weeks because they're so stained.

I have bought Ben new clothes, but most of the time he puts them away and wears his old, beat-up and grubby things. He gets upset and defensive when I bring it up. Other people have commented about the way he looks and, frankly, sometimes I'm embarrassed to be seen with him.

He's a great guy and I don't want to hurt his feelings, but this really bothers me. I don't want him to look like a fashion plate, but neat and clean would be good. Any ideas on how to deal with this?

DISAPPOINTED WITH DISHEVELED

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I do have one. Rather than buying your husband any more clothes he doesn't wear, take him shopping and have him select some items in which he would feel comfortable.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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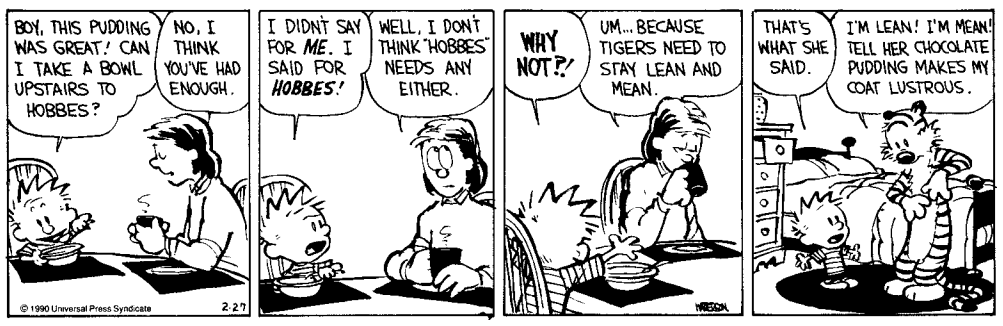
Pastimes

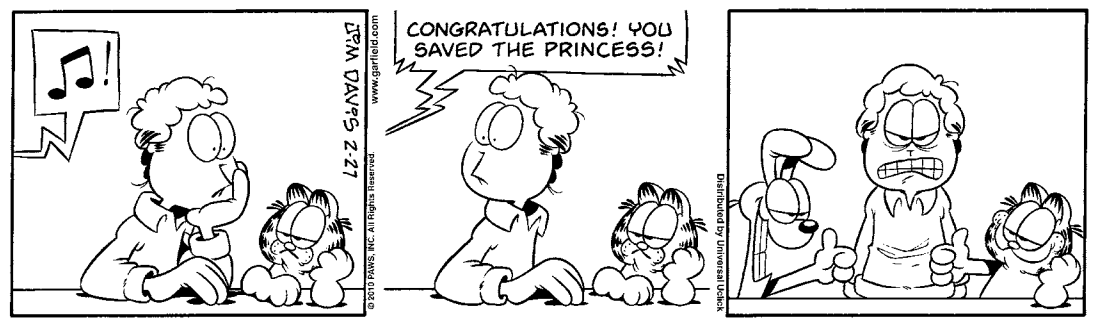
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, THIS PUDDING WAS GREAT! CAN I TAKE A BOWL UPSTAIRS TO HOBBES?
NO, I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I DIDN'T SAY FOR ME. I SAID FOR HOBBES!
WELL, I DON'T THINK "HOBBES" NEEDS ANY EITHER.
WHY NOT?!
UM... BECAUSE TIGERS NEED TO STAY LEAN AND MEAN.
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
I'M LEAN! I'M MEAN! TELL HER CHOCOLATE PUDDING MAKES MY COAT LUSTROUS.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
2-27

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


JIM DAVIS 2-27
www.garfield.com
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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU SAVED THE PRINCESS!
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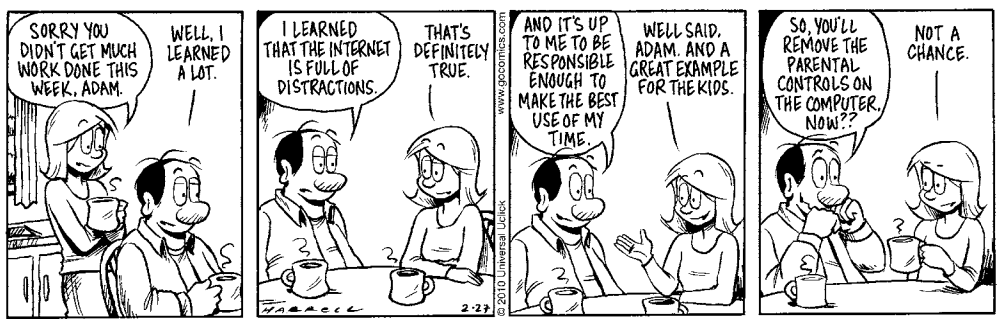
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET MUCH WORK DONE THIS WEEK, ADAM.
WELL, I LEARNED A LOT.
I LEARNED THAT THE INTERNET IS FULL OF DISTRACTIONS.
THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE.
AND IT'S UP TO ME TO BE RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF MY TIME.
WELL SAID, ADAM. AND A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR THE KIDS.
SO, YOU'LL REMOVE THE PARENTAL CONTROLS ON THE COMPUTER, NOW??
NOT A CHANCE.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Universal Uclick
2-27

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MY CAR'S BEEN REPOSSESSED. I'VE LOST MY JOB, AND I'VE GOT NO GIRLFRIEND.
YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS?...
TODAY THE SQUEAKER IN MY SQUEAKY BONE STOPPED SQUEAKING.
www.gocomics.com
Glenn McCoy
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2-27-10

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

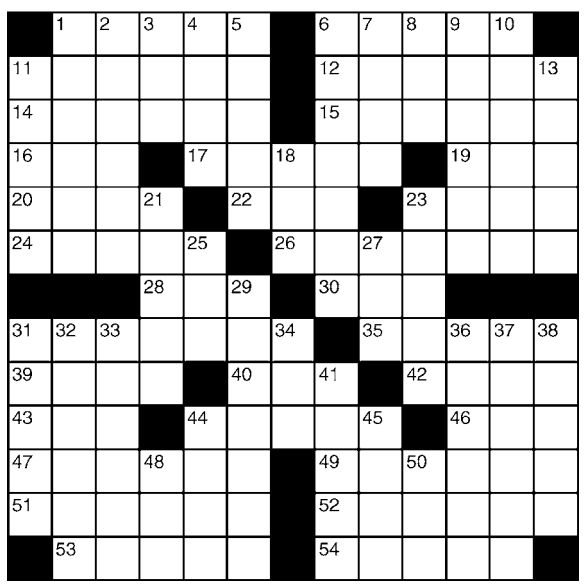
ACROSS
1 Beetle larvae
6 TV chef Deen
11 With acidity
12 Cockeyed
14 John of rock
15 John of TV comedy
16 "Monty Python" opener
17 Winter warmer
19 Flightless bird
20 Pal
22 — segno (sheet-music term)
23 Furnish with a lining
24 Military headgear
26 Interim government
28 Ill-lit
30 Moray, for one
31 Garb
35 Subway
39 Feathery neckwear
40 Fond du —
42 Brought up
43 Inseparable
44 Refuge
46 Skater Midori
47 John of literature
49 John of music
51 Have membership
52 Uses
53 Thorn in Beetle Bailey's side
54 Kidney-related

DOWN
1 "Faust" dramatist
2 Accumulates, as a tab
3 Coffee shop vessel
4 United nations
5 Church council
6 Ex-con
7 Largest of the seven
8 Last (Abbr.)
9 Mediterranean ship
10 Weak, in a sense
11 Oily
13 Lionel Richie hit
18 Train component
21 Goldfinger?
23 Star
25 Round Table address
27 Jewel
29 Olio
31 Enola Gay's payload
32 Shetlands, e.g.
33 Rice recipe
34 Loo, for short
36 "Jeopardy!" stock-in-trade
37 Narrate anew
38 Bloodhound's clues
41 Moth repellant
44 — Kong
45 Actress Campbell
48 Craggy hill
50 A Bobbsey twin

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	A	P	S	E	■	D	O	H	■	W	A	N
A	T	O	L	L	■	U	B	I	■	O	D	E
D	E	M	O	B	■	P	O	M	P	O	M	S
■	■	P	E	O	P	L	E	■	H	E	A	T
G	O	O	■	W	E	E	■	C	O	R	N	S
O	N	U	S	■	E	X	P	A	T	■	■	■
P	O	S	T	E	R	■	A	D	O	P	T	S
■	■	■	O	N	S	E	T	■	S	O	A	K
N	E	A	P	S	■	R	E	C	■	M	R	I
E	C	R	U	■	N	O	S	O	A	P	■	■
P	O	M	P	E	I	I	■	O	S	A	G	E
A	L	E	■	A	B	C	■	P	A	N	E	L
L	I	D	■	U	S	A	■	S	P	O	T	S

Yesterday's answer 2-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Groban, 29; Chelsea Clinton, 30; Rozonda 'Chilli' Thomas, 39; Elizabeth Taylor, 78

Happy Birthday: There will be plenty to contend with regarding work and dealing with colleagues, superiors and institutions. Emotional blackmail is apparent, so stick to the truth. Use your energy wisely and build your base on solid ground. This can be a great year but only if you play a straight game. Your numbers are 2, 9, 20, 26, 31, 34, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do something nice for yourself that will help you relax and enjoy home and family. You will accomplish more if you feel rested and have had time to mull over your plans for the immediate future. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't fall for a good sell job when you know better. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably won't work. Stick to your budget regardless of the temptations around you. Don't let your emotions take over. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Avoid making promises you may not want to deliver. Someone you are trying to impress will take advantage of your vulnerable position. Focus on home, family and improving your surroundings. A short trip will lead to a good buy. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't just sit there when you can be doing so much to improve your life, your position and your future. Love is in the stars and spending time with someone special will lead to a much better relationship. Make and accept change. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be honest, attentive and willing to meet the demands put on you by someone you find intriguing. You can make money but don't do so at the expense of someone who is counting on you. A trip may be enticing but it won't bring you the hoped-for results. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An opportunity to share something special with someone you care for will lead to a larger commitment and future plans. Enforce ground rules and push for what you feel will bring you the greatest return. Partnerships and team efforts will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stop procrastinating before you miss out on something good. You are the only one holding you back. Take whatever you have done and launch it as is and the help you need finishing what you started will appear. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take advantage of what's being offered. Don't be so suspicious; just do your homework and move forward swiftly. A change in the romance department will be unexpected but will lead to a much happier union. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be intuitive but that may not be enough. If you have been difficult to deal with in the past, expect to face some tough questions about your intentions. Your charm will not help you get away with lies or exaggerating the truth. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**): Thoughts should be followed by actions but, before you take a leading role, figure out what everyone is up to. Better to be safe than sorry. Take your past experience into account in order to make the right choice now. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's time to lay your cards on the table. By opening up, you will be able to gain the trust and understanding of someone who can help you achieve your goals. Your intuition won't let you down. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Follow through with any promise you have made, regardless of how tough it might be. Your reputation will suffer if you don't hold up your end of a bargain. Love is in the stars, so put aside time for romancing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, sensitive and emotional. You are an expert at getting your way. Your confidence will guide you to success.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		5					
	9							4
6	3		8					
5			6	7		1		
3								6
		7		3	4			2
					5		4	9
1							6	
					3		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	4	8	7	6	2	5	1
2	6	7	1	5	4	8	3	9
1	8	5	2	3	9	4	7	6
6	7	1	4	2	3	9	8	5
9	5	2	6	8	7	3	1	4
8	4	3	5	9	1	7	6	2
7	1	9	3	4	5	6	2	8
5	3	8	9	6	2	1	4	7
4	2	6	7	1	8	5	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AMAZON KINDLE **Solution: 8 letters**

S	E	L	T	I	T	E	N	R	E	P	S	I	H	W
S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	I	X	E	L	S	I	E
S	R	R	K	T	G	N	I	T	A	T	O	R	C	B
K	E	E	E	C	O	M	P	A	C	T	E	I	D	S
R	T	L	T	P	A	D	L	O	S	L	V	L	I	C
A	P	G	F	E	A	P	M	K	E	E	O	T	C	R
M	A	R	O	P	M	P	O	S	D	B	C	N	T	I
K	H	A	R	L	U	O	S	E	A	E	I	E	I	P
O	C	Y	K	T	B	B	R	W	L	N	L	T	O	T
O	C	N	E	O	S	A	L	E	E	S	B	N	N	I
B	I	R	I	L	E	S	S	I	L	N	U	O	A	O
E	S	D	I	G	L	O	A	D	S	E	P	C	R	N
F	U	A	O	E	Z	I	N	O	R	H	C	N	Y	S
A	M	D	Ⓔ	Ⓖ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N
E	E	P	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	O	N	N	A	R

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Yesterday's Answer: Railroad

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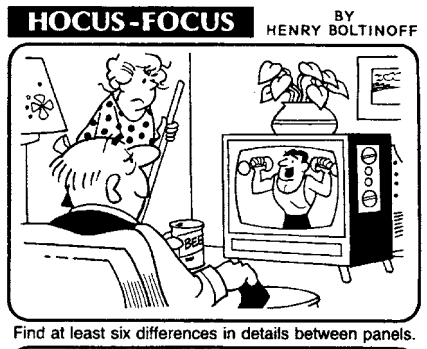
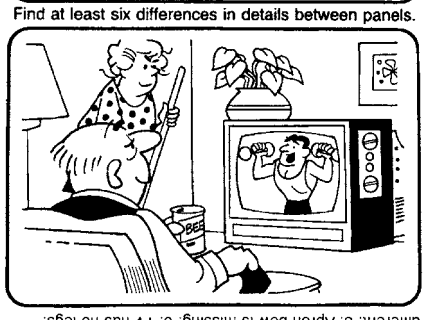
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Lampshade is different. 2. Woman's expression has changed. 3. Plant is moved. 4. Picture is different. 5. Apron bow is missing. 6. TV has no legs.

Wishing Well®

8	4	7	8	5	7	4	3	4	5	4	3	6
B	A	F	E	Y	R	L	G	A	O	S	I	D
2	5	2	6	8	4	7	3	5	4	3	4	6
B	U	U	I	E	T	E	V	S	I	E	N	S
8	6	3	6	5	8	5	6	4	7	4	5	4
X	C	F	O	P	P	A	U	G	E	F	N	R
5	6	4	5	3	2	8	5	3	4	3	5	4
B	N	I	A	R	S	R	R	E	E	E	R	N
3	4	3	8	5	4	8	4	8	5	7	8	4
L	D	Y	E	I	S	S	H	S	E	C	I	I
6	8	4	5	2	5	2	8	2	6	2	7	2
T	V	P	R	I	S	N	E	E	F	S	H	S
6	7	2	6	7	2	7	2	6	2	7	6	7
E	O	T	A	I	R	C	I	R	P	E	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

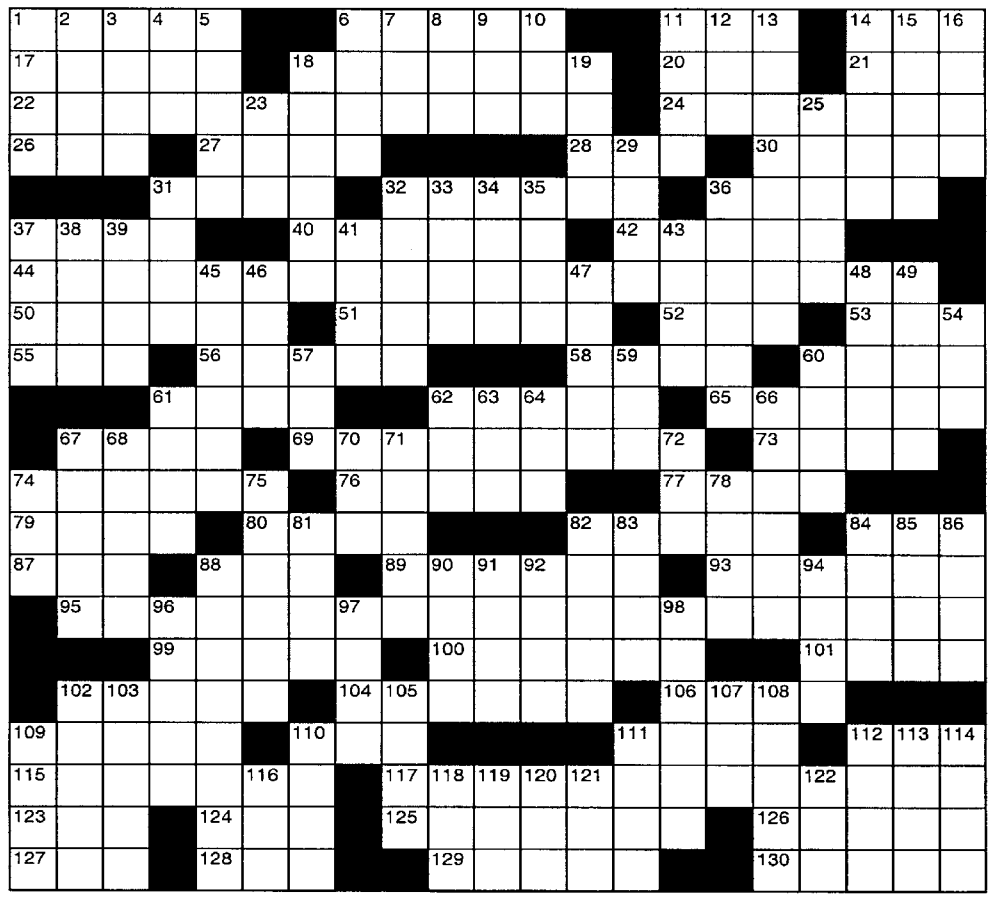
SWEET TALK

ACROSS

1 Singer Ian
6 Get the picture
11 Bespectacled dwarf
14 Craze
17 Coleridge's "Dejection: —"
18 Piled up
20 Honest name
21 Nutritional abbr.
22 Start of a remark
24 "Short —" ('86 film)
26 — -di-dah
27 Cavalry characteristic
28 Wapiti
30 First-class
31 Neighbor of Cal.
32 Hindu deity
36 Excludes
37 Caution
40 Peter of "Becket"
42 Long-legged wader
44 Part 2 of remark
50 Tree trim
51 Mischievous
52 Trigger-happy guy?
53 Cen. segments
55 Label
56 Mortgages, e.g.
58 Virginia —
60 Small combo
61 Adolescent
62 Witch wheels?
65 Repeated
67 TV's "— City"
69 Part 3 of remark
73 Temporary calm
74 Witch doctor
76 Synonym source
77 Support
79 Sheet of stamps
80 Heady quaffs
82 Destroyed
84 Regulatory agcy.
87 White House spokesman Fleischer
88 Sault — Marie, MI
89 Alex Rieger, for one
93 Bunch of bass
95 Part 4 of remark
99 Black or Valentine
100 Reach
101 Riches' predecessor
102 Rubbish
104 Mortarboard part
106 Cookbook author Rombauer
109 Guitar features
110 John — Passos
111 On the briny
112 Fast flier
115 Last name in talk shows
117 End of remark
123 Mineral suffix
124 Wrong
125 Printing
126 Romeo and Juliet
127 — Guevara
128 Dram
129 Examine
130 Like a lummox

DOWN

1 Secure spot
2 Dancer Pavlova
3 Hit the chips
4 A mean Amin
5 Passover meal
6 Feds
7 Vole kin
8 Gray matter?
9 Vane dir.
10 — diem
11 Actor Rambo
12 Ben — -Wan Kenobi
13 Rite
14 Healthful snack
15 Mine entries
16 See socially
18 Wonder Woman, for one
19 Believe
23 Yalie
25 Hold fast
29 Bolger/Haley co-star
31 Hill dwellers
32 High times
33 Gambol
34 Jai —
35 Coop crowd
36 Baltimore bird
37 Skater Katarina
38 Kuwait's continent
39 Tolled
41 Pollux or Bert Bobbsey
43 Rochester's missis
45 Montana's capital
46 Tennis pro Nastase
47 Pulsate
48 Austrian province
49 Bay window
54 Lay down the lawn
57 MIT grad
59 Cassowary kin
60 Consequently
61 Use a stopwatch
62 Marsh
63 Actress McClanahan
64 Legendary Giant
66 Boxing maneuver
67 Lewis or Belafonte
68 "— Room" ('02 film)
70 Archaic preposition
71 Puccini heroine
72 Indian export
74 Health club
75 Character
78 Essence
81 — majesty
82 Rope material
83 Utah city
84 "My kingdom — horse!"
85 Henning or McClure
86 48 Across attraction
88 Photo
90 "Woe is me!"
91 Certain sandwiches
92 Eight bits
94 Jealous Olympian
96 Japanese dog
97 Till
98 Complete agreement
102 Solemn vow
103 Soprano Fleming
105 "— forgive those . . ."
107 VCR button
108 Native New Zealander
109 Bk.'s backup
110 Adroit
111 Sailor's shout
112 Mall event
113 — aerobics
114 Exam
116 Tabloid flier
118 Mrs. McKinley
119 "Whether — nobler in the mind . . ."
120 Hasbrouck —, NJ
121 Security grp.
122 Cambodia's — Nol



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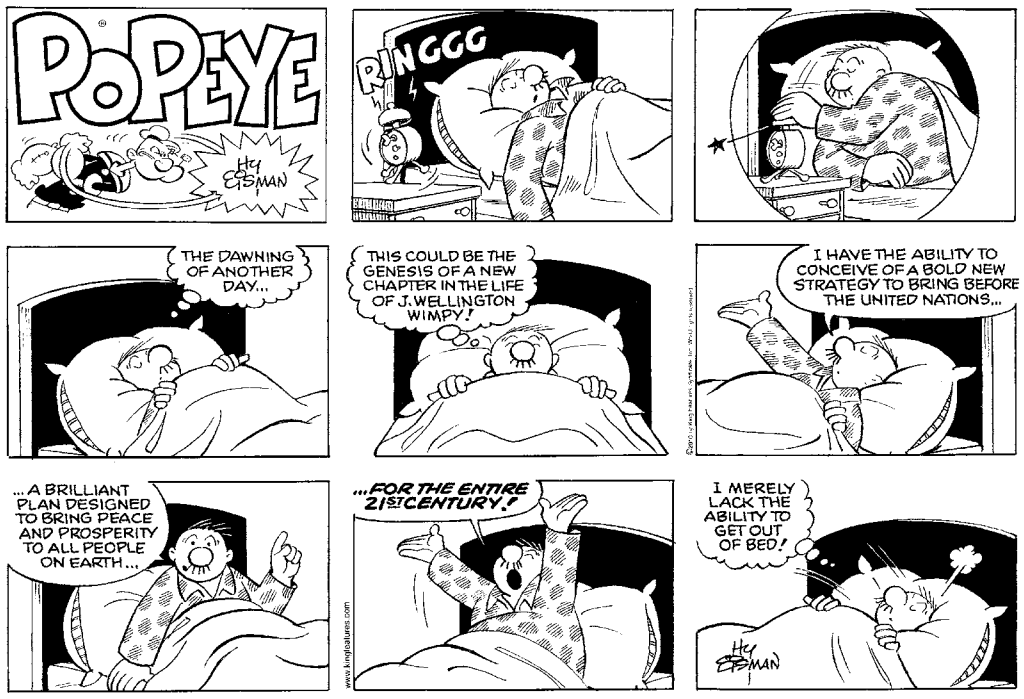
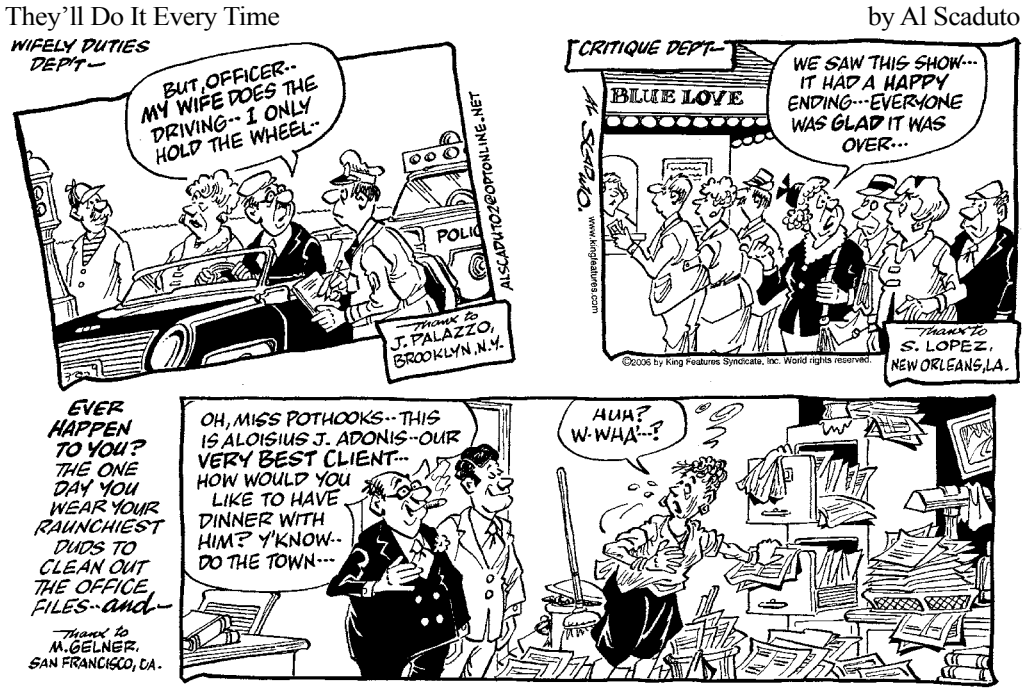

POPEYE
Hey Eisman
RINGGG
THE DAWNING OF ANOTHER DAY...
THIS COULD BE THE GENESIS OF A NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF J. WELLINGTON WIMPY!
I HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONCEIVE OF A BOLD NEW STRATEGY TO BRING BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS...
...A BRILLIANT PLAN DESIGNED TO BRING PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO ALL PEOPLE ON EARTH...
...FOR THE ENTIRE 21st CENTURY!
I MERELY LACK THE ABILITY TO GET OUT OF BED!
Hey Eisman
www.kingfeatures.com

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


WIFELY DUTIES DEPT—
BUT, OFFICER.. MY WIFE DOES THE DRIVING.. I ONLY HOLD THE WHEEL..
POLIC
Thanks to J. PALAZZO, BROOKLYN, N.Y.
ALSCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET
CRITIQUE DEPT—
BLUE LOVE
WE SAW THIS SHOW... IT HAD A HAPPY ENDING... EVERYONE WAS GLAD IT WAS OVER...
Thanks to S. LOPEZ, NEW ORLEANS, LA.
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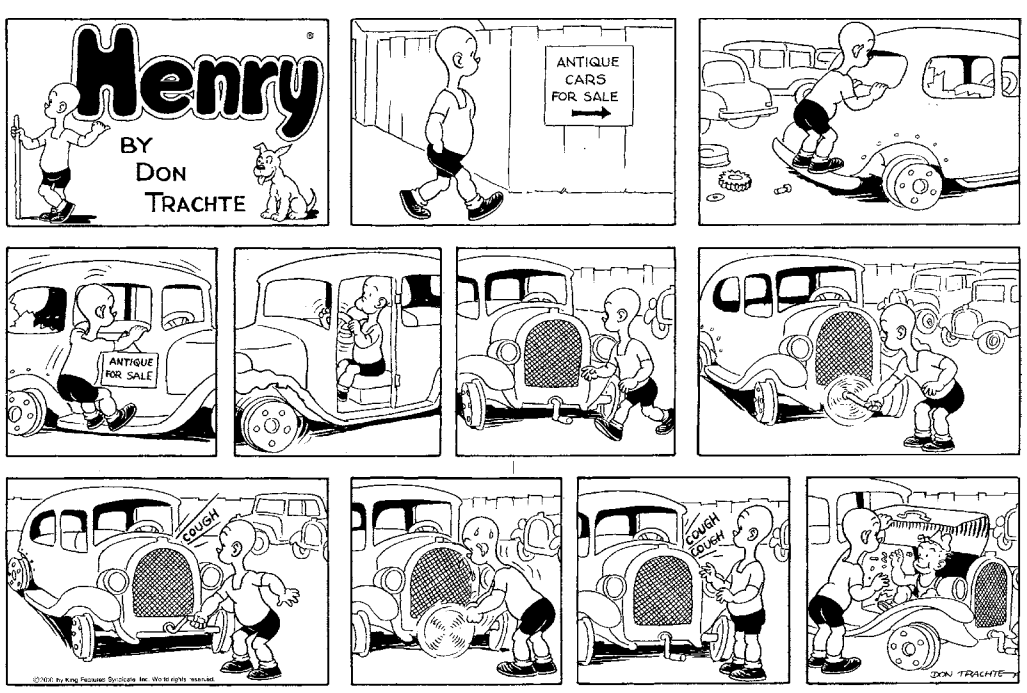
www.KingFeatures.com
EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? THE ONE DAY YOU WEAR YOUR RAUNCHIEST DUDS TO CLEAN OUT THE OFFICE FILES--and--
Thanks to M. GELNER, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
OH, MISS POTHOOKS--THIS IS ALOISIUS J. ADONIS--OUR VERY BEST CLIENT-- HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH HIM? Y'KNOW-- DO THE TOWN---
HUH? W-WHA'--?

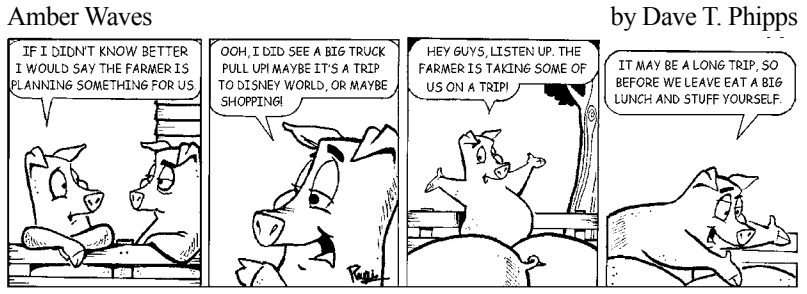


Trivia test

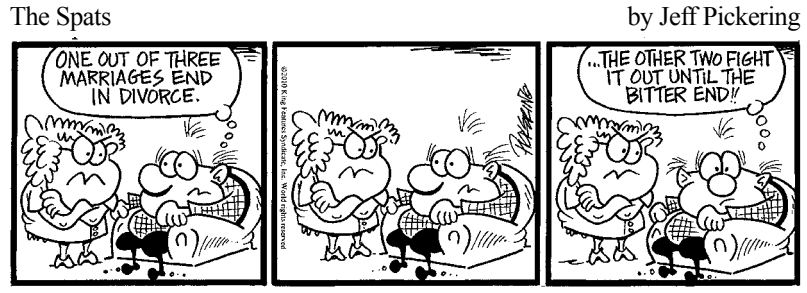
by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. state is west of Ohio?
2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Where the Red Fern Grows"?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin suffix "grade" mean?
4. SCIENCE: Who originated quantum theory?
5. MEDICINE: What does the notation "a.c." mean when it is written on drug prescriptions?
6. ACRONYMS: What does the acronym IMF stand for?
7. GAMES: What do you get when you pass "Go" in Monopoly?
8. TELEVISION: What is Kramer's first name in the "Seinfeld" comedy series?
9. ART: What is the painting technique called "impasto"?
10. PERSONALITIES: What age did comedian Jack Benny always claim to be?

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I WOULD SAY THE FARMER IS PLANNING SOMETHING FOR US
OOH, I DID SEE A BIG TRUCK PULL UP! MAYBE IT'S A TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD, OR MAYBE SHOPPING!
HEY GUYS, LISTEN UP. THE FARMER IS TAKING SOME OF US ON A TRIP!
IT MAY BE A LONG TRIP, SO BEFORE WE LEAVE EAT A BIG LUNCH AND STUFF YOURSELF.

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



Answers

1. Indiana
2. Wilson Rawls
3. Walking or moving
4. Max Karl Ernst Planck
5. "before meals" or ante clubm in Latin
6. International Monetary Fund
7. $200
8. Cosmo
9. A thick layer of paint
10. 39

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Saturday's Answers

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MOT ODE ION

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- Good computer skills required

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Email: chung.lee@chanelusa.com

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Starting as low as... $25.00
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$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

EXOTIC PLANTS SALE
in Tanapag at Affordable Price
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010
Follow sign after I-MART
or call 322-3900

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Poetry in motion

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Canada resurgent; Bjoergen wins third gold

AP

Canada's Sarah Vaillancourt (26) joins the celebration after Canada beat USA 2-0 to win the women's gold medal ice hockey game at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Canada claimed one of the two Olympic titles in the sport that matters most in the host nation, beating the United States 2-0 in the women's hockey final on Thursday to join the Americans and Germany atop the gold medal standings.

Kim Yu-na of South Korea won one of the most highly-anticipated titles of the Vancouver Games with a magnificent free program to secure the women's figure skating competition by 23 points from Japan's Mao Asada. Canada's Joannie Rochette took bronze just days after her mother died of a heart attack.

Three days after conceding its "Own the Podium" program might have been overly ambitious for the overall medal count, a resurgent Canada is back in contention to top the gold medal count at the Vancouver Games.

Canada, Germany and the United States each picked up their eighth gold medals of the games on Day 14, while Norway improved its haul to seven when Marit Bjoergen become the first triple gold medalist here by anchoring her team to victory in a cross-country relay.

Whistler's problematic weather threw up more surprises when German outsider Viktoria Rebensburg won the giant slalom, which was contested over two days due to a dense fog.

The Americans won their first ever gold medal in the Nordic sports when Billy Demong and Johnny Spillane finished with gold and silver in a Nordic combined large hill competition that was marred by bad weather at the Whistler Olympic Park. The snow and rain which forced a restart of the ski jump section cut any advantage for the stronger jumpers.

Demong clinched the win by winning the 10-kilometer cross-country leg in 25 minutes, 32.9 seconds.

At Cypress Mountain, Alexei Grishin landed two clean jumps in men's aerials to earn Belarus its first gold medal of the games. U.S. aerialist Jeret "Speedy" Peterson took silver, ahead of China's Liu Zhongqing.

The Canadian men's hockey team has to beat Slovakia on Friday to reach the gold medal match but its convincing win over Russia on Wednesday has the locals buoyant again, helping overcome the shock of an earlier loss to the United States.

With men's and women's into the curling finals, where they're expected to deliver gold medals in the second national sport, Canada could lift its gold medal count into double figures.

Most attention was on downtown Vancouver, where Marie-Philip Poulin scored two goals and Shannon Szabados made 28 saves as Canada beat the United States in a battle between the two most dominant teams in women's hockey.

"This is an incredible moment," goaltender Szabados said. "I looked up in the stands and saw a sign that said, 'Proud to be Canadian.' That's what I am today."

Unbeaten Canada advanced to the gold medal match against Norway in men's curling with a 6-3 win over Sweden, while the Canadian women will play defending Olympic champion Sweden after ousting world champion China in the semifinals.

The Norwegian men, wearing the colorful diamond-print pants that have become the fashion statement of the Vancouver Games and made them a Facebook hit, beat Switzerland 7-5 in the other semifinal.

Norway, with more medals than any other country in the history of the Winter Games, is making a comeback after a disappointing Olympics in Turin, where it only won two gold four years ago.

Bjoergen has contributed almost half those, and added a bronze medal, to lift her career haul to six Olympic medals and set a national women's record for the Winter Games.

Bjoergen led the 4x5-kilometer cross-country relay to victory over Germany and Finland, crossing in 55 minutes, 19.5 seconds.

"It has been so great, I would never have dreamed of one gold medal and now I have three, so this has been a wonderful Games," she said. "It was a big day for me and the last lap was awesome. I'm flying."

On the slopes at Whistler, Rebensburg, who had never won a major race, had a two-run combined time of 2 minutes, 27.11 seconds. Her second run finished just before a thick fog descended, making it even more difficult for the first-run leaders.

She held off Slovenia's Tina Maze by 0.04 seconds. It was a second silver here for Maze, who was second in the super-G. First-run leader Elisabeth Goergl of Austria added another bronze, 0.14 back, repeating her downhill result.

The 20-year-old Rebensburg was sixth after the first run of the giant slalom, which was also marred by dense fog on Wednesday, forcing organizers to reschedule the second run to a second day.

"Unbelievable! Unbelievable! Unbelievable! It just sounds so strange," said Rebensburg, who had to quickly improvise a post-race celebration. "I think I have to. Who wins a Gold medal?"

Super-combined gold medalist Maria Riesch, one of the Germans who'd been more favored to win a medal but finished 10th, advised her teammate to make the most of her unexpected triumph.

"She should experience this moment, right now in this moment because it all goes by like a film and tonight she will shake her head and wonder what happened," Riesch said.

Short track has delivered two of South Korea's six gold medals, but caused the biggest stir.

Police arrested a man accused of threatening to blow up the Australian Embassy in Seoul because of a decision made by an Australian judge at the Olympics.

The man, identified only by his surname, Kim, told investigators he was upset after Australian referee Jim Hewish disqualified the defending champion South Korean team in the women's 3,000-meter relay.

McGwire saddened by brother's book on steroids

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Mark McGwire said he's saddened his estranged brother wrote a book that chronicles their use of performance-enhancing drugs and reiterated his claim that he only took them to heal from injuries.

McGwire said Thursday he's so upset with his brother, Jay McGwire, that he doesn't believe reconciliation is possible.

"I don't plan on ever seeing him again," said McGwire, the new hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals.

The youngest of the five McGwire brothers and Mark's junior by more than six years, Jay McGwire lived with Mark and was a frequent clubhouse visitor during McGwire's time in Oakland. His book, "Mark and Me: Mark McGwire and the Truth Behind Baseball's Worst-Kept Secret," is scheduled for publication Monday by TriumphBooks.

Mark McGwire used the word "sad" seven times to describe the book in his 8-minute question and answer session with the media on Thursday.

"You try to be a good person, you try to take care of somebody, be a good brother," said McGwire, trailing off. "It's sort of sad. It's a sad day for my family. I don't know how a family member could do something like that."

Last month, McGwire admitted taking steroids and human growth hormone during the 1990s, but said he only did so to recover from injuries—not to improve his performance.

Jay McGwire says recovering from injuries was the primary reason for his brother's decision to use drugs but that Mark McGwire also knew the steroids were helping him gain size and strength.

"He had to do something to try to sell a book," Mark said. "I know the reason why I did it. I know it from the heart and I told you guys that already back in January."

Jay McGwire says in the book that he persuaded his brother to start using steroids regularly in 1994 and set him up with a supplier. He says Mark regularly used an array of drugs through 1996 that included Deca-Durabolin, human growth hormone, Dianabol, Winstrol and Primobolan. McGwire later used androstenedione, a steroid precursor that wasn't banned by baseball until 2004, when it became a controlled substance.

"I've already come out and said what I've done and apologized," Mark said. "As far as I'm concerned there's really nothing new. It's kind of sad as a brother what he's done, but I've moved on from it."

Jay McGwire, a former bodybuilder who turns 40 on May 5, said he was introduced to steroids by friends in 1989, beginning with pills of Anavar. He says his brother only gave in to using steroids after an injury-filled 1993 season. McGwire hit 70 homers for the Cardinals in 1998, shattering Roger Maris' record of 61 set in 1961.

At Phillies' camp on Thursday, Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt commended McGwire for his apology, but he isn't sure if the public fully accepts it.

"He needed to clear the air, sort of pave the way for a smoother year for himself. It's not going to be smooth by any means," said Schmidt, who is serving as a guest instructor with Philadelphia. "He's going to have to talk about it wherever he goes, but I'm happy for him. It was a great start for his new career as hitting coach.

"He stated that his usage of steroids didn't help his power output. He may believe that and it may be true, but I don't think that's what the public wanted to hear. They probably wanted to hear an admission that his numbers were increased and his position in history was probably elevated to some degree by the use of steroids. Again, I think that's what the public wanted to hear."

The brothers haven't spoken since 2002. They fell out after Jay McGwire's stepson, Eric, tickled Mark and caused Mark to spill coffee on himself. Mark then swatted Eric on the backside. Jay's wife, Francine, then refused to attend Mark's wedding.

St. Louis manager Tony La Russa received an advanced scouting report on the book and didn't expect the release to disrupt the Cardinals' camp.

"Somebody I knew read an advanced copy," La Russa said prior to morning workouts. "He said that (Jay) said some stuff—it wasn't really first-page-to-last-page damning stuff about Mark."

Neither Mark McGwire nor La Russa plan to read the book.

"What's the point?" La Russa said. "It's stuff that's already been gone over a bunch of times. I don't know what it's going to change."

Cavs blow past Celtics in 4th, win 108-88

BOSTON (AP)— The Celtics were better early, then LeBron James and the Cavaliers blew right by them.

Story of this game.

Story of the season.

James had 36 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, Mo Williams scored 14 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Cleveland dominated the second half in a 108-88 victory Thursday night.

Unable to stop Rajon Rondo or the Celtics in the first quarter, the Cavaliers turned up the defense in the fourth, limiting the Celtics to 3-of-21 shooting and snapping a nine-game losing streak in Boston, counting playoffs.

"We haven't had much success here," James said. "We've lost nine times coming into this building. So it gets the monkey off our backs. But don't read too much into it."

James kept the Cavaliers in it for three quarters on a night they lost Shaquille O'Neal to a first-half thumb injury, then Williams made four 3-pointers when Cleveland outscored Boston 35-14.

"I think in the second half our level of aggressiveness really stepped up on both ends of the floor," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "There was no panic among our guys. We knew 24 minutes was a lot of time. We just started chipping away from it."

Ray Allen scored 21 points, and Rondo had 19 points and 11 assists for the Celtics, who badly missed injured All-Star Paul Pierce (right thumb) when their offense went stagnant in the final 1 1/2 quarters.

"They were a lot more aggressive in the second half. They made adjustments to stop Rondo's penetration," Celtics forward Kevin Garnett said. "We knew it was a real big test. We can't play one half and relax."

Cleveland improved to 20-10 on the road, tying Boston for the best in the NBA, and avenged a 95-89 home loss on opening night.

That came back when Boston looked like the class of the Eastern Conference while the Cavaliers struggled early. But the Celtics have been unable to stay healthy and Cleveland has left the Celtics and everyone else in the East behind, opening a 5 1/2-game lead over Orlando while dropping Boston 7 1/2 games back in a tie with Atlanta.

This game followed a similar path. Boston was much better early inside a rocking TD Garden, but most of the green-clad fans were gone before the final minutes after the deeper Cavaliers wore them down.

Cleveland outscored Boston 60-32 in the second half, allowing just five baskets in the final 17 1/2 minutes.

"When they were scoring that much, it was deflating. Took our wind away," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "We went from being a team with stops and attacking to the team being attacked."

The Cavaliers trailed for nearly all the first three quarters, then quickly took control in the fourth. Williams' basket gave them the lead for good at 79-78 with 9:13 to play, and he drilled consecutive 3-pointers to extend it to 93-83 with 5 1/2 minutes remaining.

James had the next four points to make it a 14-point game in another big night against the NBA's most storied franchise. He came in averaging 30.2 points against Boston, just shy of Michael Jordan's 30.7 mark for best in NBA history.

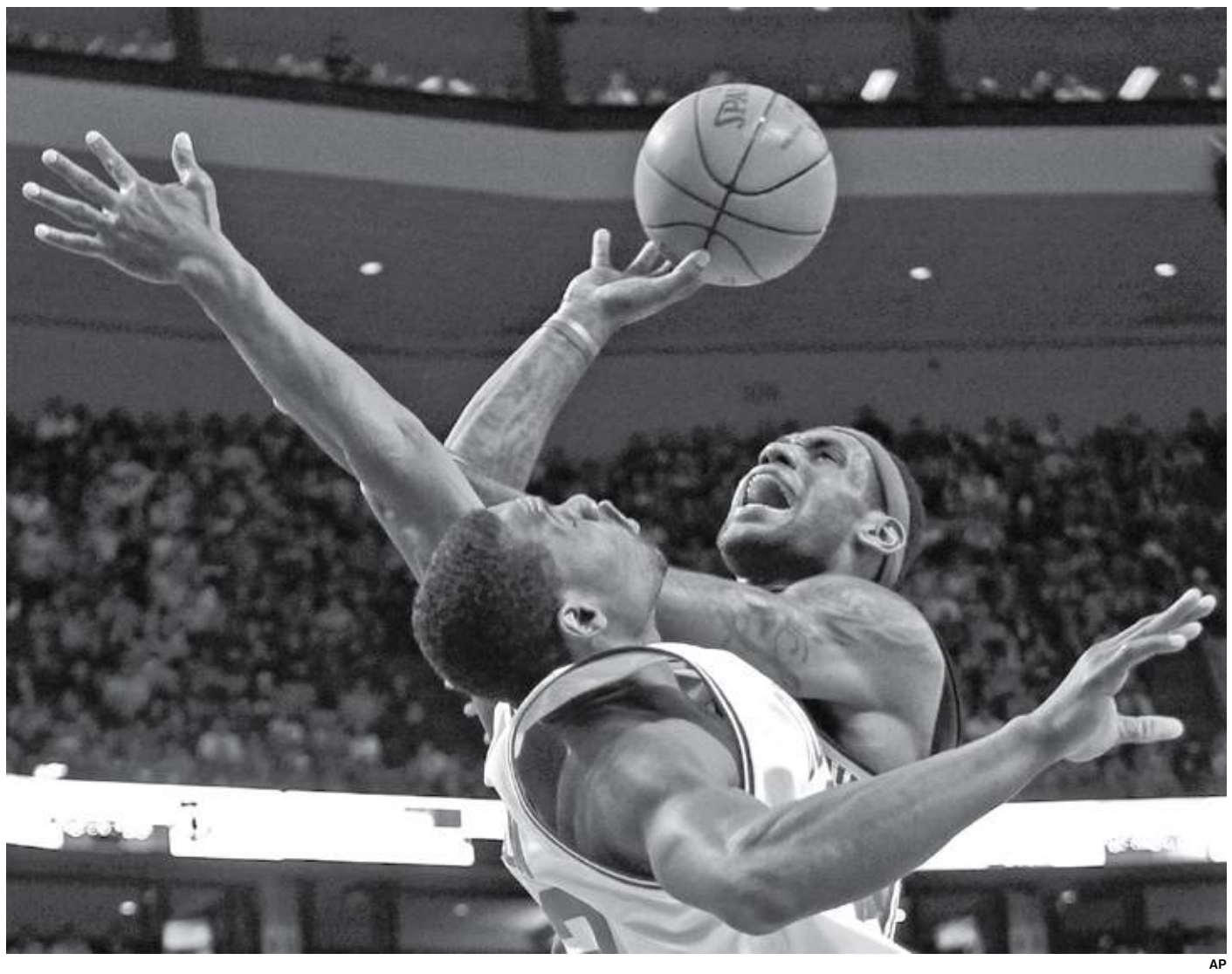
He had to do a little extra after O'Neal appeared to be hurt when Celtics forward Glen Davis whacked his hand while trying to block a shot with about 7 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter. O'Neal left for good about 30 seconds later, and the report said he had a "significant" right thumb sprain.

And they are without a backup center for now after trading Zydrunas Ilgauskas to Washington before the trade deadline. The Wizards waived Ilgauskas on Thursday after reaching agreement on a buyout, and he could decide to rejoin his former teammates after waiting the mandatory 30 days.

Cleveland had struggled defensively since the trade, a pattern that continued Thursday. The Celtics made 10 of their first 13 shots, with Rondo making five of the baskets and assisting on the other five. His layup with 33 seconds left gave Boston a 31-21 lead after one quarter.

Newcomer Nate Robinson's 3-pointer extended the lead to 40-27 with 9:46 remaining in the half. The lead was still double digits after Allen nailed two 3s late in the half, and Boston carried a 56-48 lead into the break.

The Cavaliers limited the Celtics to 6-of-20 shooting in the third quarter, trimming the lead to 74-73 after James made a free throw with 0.4 seconds left.



AP

Boston Celtics' Tony Allen, left, fouls Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, in Boston.

Nuggets 127, Warriors 112

In Oakland, California, Denver overcame Golden State in the Nuggets first game without coach George Karl since he revealed he has throat cancer.

Chauncey Billups had 37 points and nine rebounds and Carmelo Anthony added 27 points for Denver, which moved clear top of the Northwest Division, breaking a tie with Utah.

Karl stayed in Denver to receive treatment but is expected back Friday night at home against Detroit. Assistant Adrian Dantley directed the team against the Warriors.

The Nuggets set a season high with 16 3-pointers.

Stephen Curry had 30 points and 13 assists for Golden State, which twice whittled big deficits down to single digits, only for Denver to reply each time.

Bucks 112, Pacers 110

In Indianapolis, Milwaukee extended its winning streak to five games, edging Indiana.

John Salmons scored 20 points, and Brandon Jennings had 18 points and seven assists for the Bucks, who are 3-0 against the Pacers this season and now only one game off second place in the Central Division.

Danny Granger had 21 points for Indiana, which has dropped seven of eight.

Milwaukee had a 16-point lead in the third quarter, but that was cut to six with 4 minutes left in the game and then to just two with 31 seconds on the clock.

Granger converted two free throws with 10 seconds left, and Milwaukee hung on.

Villegas shoots 9-under 62 to take Phoenix lead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)— The memory of a missed 3-foot putt did nothing to diminish Camilo Villegas's game Thursday in the Phoenix Open.

The 28-year-old Colombian tied the tournament first-round record with a 9-under 62 to take a one-shot lead over former Florida teammate Matt Every.

Villegas regrouped with a bogey-free round Thursday after making the semifinals of the Match Play Championship last weekend, but missing the short putt that would have put him in the final. He beat Sergio Garcia in the third-place match.

Justin Rose, Mark Wilson, Ryuji Imada, Rickie Fowler and Pat Perez were three strokes back at 65 in near-perfect conditions at TPC Scottsdale.

Phil Mickelson and defending champion Kenny Perry were in a large group at 68. Match Play champion Ian Poulter struggled to a 72.

Playing the back nine first, Villegas wrapped up his round by chipping in from 21 feet on the par-4 ninth for his ninth birdie.

A two-time winner on the PGA Tour in 2008, he credits a more relaxed approach to the game to his strong start to this season.

"I was getting a little too concerned with my world ranking position and money list and this and that," Villegas said, "and I just got a little tight on the golf course. So I needed to put all those things aside and remember that I'm playing golf for a living, and there's a million people out there that would love to be in my shoes, and have fun with it."

In keeping with that attitude, Villegas shrugged off the missed short putt in last week's semifinal match against Paul Casey.

"You know what? It's OK," he said. "I've got no problem with it. I wish I would have made it, yes. But you know what? It ain't going to change me as a person."

Villegas' 9-under round tied the first-round tournament record shared by Steve Jones (1997) and Harrison Frazier (2003).

Every, who earned his tour card by winning last year's Nationwide Tour Championship event, also had no bogeys on a wide-open desert layout that was relatively quiet and calm with an estimated crowd of 69,475. That should change when even more rowdy fans stream in to what has become essentially a big party with a golf tournament running through it.

As many as 150,000 are expected Saturday, although rain could dampen the turnout.

Every ran off a string of six consecutive birdies starting on No. 17, the longest streak of its kind so far in the young PGA season.

He is coming off an unfortunate week at the Mayakoba Golf Classic in Cancun, where he signed an incorrect scorecard that had been kept by his lifelong golf hero and fellow ex-Gator Mark Calcavecchia in the third round and was disqualified.

Every said he was so upset with his play that he stormed away and signed his scorecard without even looking at it.

"It's 100 percent my fault, and he felt horrible, but it's in no way his fault," Every said. "He's still my favorite player and he was a blast to play with."

Every, who earned his tour card by winning the Nationwide Tour Championship last year to finish 10th on the developmental tour's money list, said he hasn't dwelt on last weekend's mistake, noting that he would have been near the bottom of the leaderboard going into the final round.

"I haven't even thought about it the whole week really until somebody said something to me right after the round," Every said. "Just because I got DQ'd doesn't mean I'm going to stop hitting it well."

Every played two seasons with Villegas at Florida.

"It's pretty neat," he said of the first-round results. "Obviously we played a lot of golf together. Not in the last few years, but he's a really, really good player. ... It's good to see him playing well, especially after last week. I mean, he missed that little putt and he rebounded well, so that says a lot about his attitude."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	20	.643	—
Toronto	31	25	.554	5
Philadelphia	22	35	.386	14 1/2
New York	19	37	.339	17
New Jersey	5	52	.088	31 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	39	19	.672	—
Atlanta	36	20	.643	2
Miami	29	29	.500	10
Charlotte	27	29	.482	11
Washington	20	35	.364	17 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	45	14	.763	—
Chicago	30	27	.526	14
Milwaukee	29	28	.509	15
Detroit	21	36	.368	23
Indiana	19	39	.328	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	37	21	.638	—
San Antonio	32	23	.582	3 1/2
New Orleans	30	28	.517	7
Memphis	29	28	.509	7 1/2
Houston	28	28	.500	8

Northwest Division

Denver	38	19	.667	—
Utah	37	20	.649	1
Oklahoma City	33	23	.589	4 1/2
Portland	34	26	.567	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	45	.237	25

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	43	15	.741	—
Phoenix	36	23	.610	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	24	33	.421	18 1/2
Sacramento	18	39	.316	24 1/2
Golden State	16	41	.281	26 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Milwaukee 112, Indiana 110
Cleveland 108, Boston 88
Denver 127, Golden State 112

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	58	585	454	1730	29.8
Durant, OKC	56	547	488	1667	29.8
Anthony, DEN	43	425	362	1254	29.2
Bryant, LAL	53	549	307	1478	27.9
Wade, MIA	55	508	365	1436	26.1
Ellis, GOL	51	514	235	1313	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	57	502	380	1414	24.8
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Johnson, ATL	56	479	162	1217	21.7
Stoudemire, PHX	59	480	308	1268	21.5
Jackson, CHA	56	423	235	1168	20.9
Randolph, MEM	57	468	219	1163	20.4
Evans, SAC	52	386	256	1054	20.3
Lee, NYK	56	480	175	1135	20.3
Maggette, GOL	50	324	355	1013	20.3
Gay, MEM	55	425	210	1102	20.0
Rose, CHI	57	478	175	1137	19.9
Kaman, LAC	51	415	175	1005	19.7
Boozer, UTA	54	425	205	1055	19.5
Brooks, HOU	56	383	178	1085	19.4

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	243	394	.617
Howard, ORL	355	585	.607
Hilario, DEN	299	506	.591
Gasol, MEM	317	543	.584
Millsap, UTA	271	472	.574
Bynum, LAL	330	579	.570
O'Neal, CLE	259	455	.569
Horford, ATL	317	564	.562
Haywood, DAL	214	381	.562
Lee, NYK	480	860	.558

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	58	207	578	785	13.5
Camby, POR	54	176	467	643	11.9
Randolph, MEM	57	245	423	668	11.7
Lee, NYK	56	148	497	645	11.5
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Noah, CHI	49	179	379	558	11.4
Boozer, UTA	54	122	485	607	11.2
Duncan, SAN	52	172	402	574	11.0
Wallace, CHA	54	112	468	580	10.7
Bogut, MIL	50	161	364	525	10.5

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	58	651	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	51	509	10.0
Rondo, BOS	54	530	9.8
Kidd, DAL	57	526	9.2
James, CLE	58	492	8.5
Davis, LAC	55	431	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	56	431	7.7
Wade, MIA	55	352	6.4
Duhon, NYK	54	332	6.1

PHOENIX OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $6 million Phoenix Open at the 7,216-yard, par-71 TPC Scottsdale course.

FIRST ROUND

Camilo Villegas	32-30–62
Matt Every	31-32–63
Justin Rose	33-32–65
Mark Wilson	31-34–65
Ryuji Imada	34-31–65
Rickie Fowler	33-32–65
Pat Perez	32-33–65
Mathew Goggin	33-33–66
Tom Lehman	32-34–66
Geoff Ogilvy	31-35–66
Ryan Moore	35-31–66
Zach Johnson	35-31–66
Brandt Snedeker	33-33–66
Joe Durant	34-32–66
Kevin Stadler	34-32–66
Y.E. Yang	34-32–66
Carl Pettersson	33-33–66
Sam Saunders	33-33–66
Jimmy Walker	34-33–67
Jeff Overton	32-35–67
Parker McLachlin	33-34–67
Anthony Kim	34-33–67
Chris Couch	34-33–67
Ben Fox	34-33–67
Chad Collins	33-34–67
Skip Kendall	35-32–67
Fred Couples	36-31–67
Alvaro Quiros	33-34–67
Chad Campbell	36-32–68
Mark Calcavecchia	36-32–68
David Toms	32-36–68
Ben Curtis	33-35–68
Matt Kuchar	34-34–68
Kenny Perry	34-34–68
Greg Chalmers	34-34–68
Jason Day	35-33–68
Brendon de Jonge	34-34–68
Ted Purdy	32-36–68
Scott Piercy	35-33–68
Ricky Barnes	34-34–68
Vaughn Taylor	34-34–68
John Mallinger	35-33–68
Bryce Molder	32-36–68
Briny Baird	34-34–68
Hunter Mahan	35-33–68
Phil Mickelson	34-34–68
Ben Crane	33-35–68
Scott McCarron	33-35–68
Jeff Maggert	34-35–69
Webb Simpson	33-36–69
Charles Howell III	34-35–69
Andres Romero	35-34–69
Robert Allenby	35-34–69
James Driscoll	33-36–69
Chris DiMarco	33-36–69
J.P. Hayes	36-33–69
Michael Letzig	34-35–69
Kevin Streelman	35-34–69
Michael Sim	36-33–69
Lee Janzen	35-34–69
Heath Slocum	36-33–69
Ryan Palmer	33-36–69
Martin Laird	36-33–69
John Rollins	36-33–69
J.B. Holmes	36-33–69
Jeev Milkha Singh	35-34–69
Bubba Watson	35-34–69
Fredrik Jacobson	33-37–70
John Merrick	33-37–70
Rich Beem	35-35–70
Scott Verplank	36-34–70
Stuart Appleby	34-36–70
Brian Gay	34-36–70
Paul Goydos	35-35–70
Tom Gillis	36-34–70
Martin Flores	34-36–70
Jonathan Byrd	32-38–70
Kevin Na	37-33–70
Jason Bohn	35-35–70
Nathan Green	36-34–70
Sean O'Hair	34-36–70
D.J. Trahan	36-34–70
Matt Jones	36-34–70
James Nitties	36-35–71
D.A. Points	36-35–71
George McNeill	32-39–71
Chris Stroud	36-35–71
Joe Ogilvie	36-35–71
Troy Matteson	37-34–71
Graham DeLaet	35-36–71
Jay Williamson	34-37–71
Aaron Baddeley	37-34–71
Davis Love III	36-35–71
Chez Reavie	38-33–71
Jonathan Kaye	37-35–72
Bo Van Pelt	37-35–72
Johnson Wagner	35-37–72
Billy Mayfair	37-35–72
Michael Allen	36-36–72
Roland Thatcher	35-37–72
Woody Austin	36-36–72
Charlie Wi	35-37–72
Steve Marino	37-35–72
Alex Cejka	36-36–72
Steve Lowery	34-38–72
Charley Hoffman	36-36–72
Ian Poulter	37-35–72
Jeff Quinney	37-35–72
Brian Stuard	35-37–72
Roger Tambellini	38-34–72
Justin Bolli	36-36–72
Chris Wilson	33-39–72
Bret Guetz	39-33–72
Blake Adams	35-37–72
Brett Quigley	38-35–73
J.J. Henry	35-38–73
Rory Sabbatini	34-39–73
Kevin Sutherland	37-36–73
Justin Leonard	36-37–73
Trevor Immelman	37-36–73
Lucas Glover	38-35–73
Marc Turnesa	36-37–73
Troy Merritt	34-39–73
Nick O'Hern	37-37–74
Nick Watney	38-36–74
Cameron Beckman	35-39–74
Rocco Mediate	37-37–74
Kevin Johnson	37-37–74
Boo Weekley	37-37–74
Tim Petrovic	34-40–74
Martin Kaymer	40-34–74
Brian Davis	37-37–74
a-Braxton Marquez	35-39–74
Bill Lunde	37-38–75
Nicholas Thompson	38-37–75
Greg Owen	36-39–75
Steve Flesch	36-39–75
Derek Lamely	36-39–75
a-Philip Francis	36-40–76
Marc Leishman	36-41–77
Josh Teater	36-41–77
Dean Vomacka	37-40–77
Chris Tidland	38-40–78
Cameron Percy	39-42–81

WINTER OLYMPICS MEDAL STANDINGS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
United States	8	12	12	32
Germany	8	11	7	26
Canada	8	6	3	17
Norway	7	6	6	19
South Korea	6	4	1	11
Switzerland	6	0	2	8
Austria	4	3	5	12
China	4	2	3	9
Sweden	4	2	2	8
Russia	3	4	6	13
Netherlands	3	1	2	6
France	2	3	5	10
Australia	2	1	0	3
Czech Republic	2	0	3	5
Belarus	1	1	1	3
Slovakia	1	1	1	3
Britain	1	0	0	1
Poland	0	3	1	4
Slovenia	0	2	1	3
Latvia	0	2	0	2
Italy	0	1	3	4
Finland	0	1	2	3
Croatia	0	1	1	2
Estonia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	0	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

February roll-off Sunday and Monday

The 2010 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes continues this Sunday, Feb. 28, and Monday, March 1, at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 4pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for members of the Saipan Bowling Association with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 18 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll-off. The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

RAYS

From Page 28

all, on Michael Moran's jumper and Angelo Limes' underneath basket, with 51.2 seconds left in the match.

The next plays were helter-skelter basketball, as Southern and MHS traded errors before Nathan Oie connected on a baseline jumper from the left wing to break the deadlock, 55-53, with 29.3 seconds left on the clock.

MHS committed another error in their next offensive set, allowing Nevin Salem to go for a fastreak layup. Salem missed a gimme but Christian Mizer was there for the trailer and the putback, giving the Rays a 57-53 lead.

The remaining 23 seconds of the match was a pitiful sight from the stripe for the Dolphins.

Limes muffed two free throws before John Darag split his charities. A Rays error returned the ball to MHS and Moran trooped to the foul line anew, but still missed two free shots. Ezra Caro grabbed the offensive board and drew another foul, but bungled the two charities. He claimed his second offensive rebound and was fouled, again, but finally made one free throw to cut the lead to two, 55-57, with 6.7 seconds left on the clock.

After Ezra canned his first free throw, he missed the second one, but Limes collared another offensive board for MHS, giving the Dolphins a chance to tie the game. However Limes split his charities, missing the first before making the second, leaving Southern with a one-point lead, 56-57, with two seconds to go in the match.

An MHS preemptive foul sent Nevin Salem to the foul line and he faltered both shots. There was a battle for the rebound among Mizer, Limes, and Ezra and no team was in clear possession when time expired, preserving Southern's victory.

Mizer top-scored for the Rays with 17 points, while Nicko Salem scored 14 points before fouling out in the last minute of the match.

Darag led the Dolphins' losing cause, drilling 12 markers, while Moran chipped in 11.

Darag and Moran helped MHS work its way back into the game in the second half before poor performance from the foul line eliminated the Dolphins in the fight for the junior varsity championship.

Southern will meet Kagman in a one-game finals on Monday.

SSHS 57 – Mizer 17, Ni. Salem 14, Sablan 8, Oei 6, Ne. Salem 4, Tudela 2.

MHS 56 – Darag 12, Moran 11, Lueng 9, Caro 8, Limes 7, Lacsina 1.

Scoring by halves: 29-17, 57-56.

MIEKO

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more triathletes as alternates.

Next month's 2010 Tagaman Triathlon will be used as a qualifier and the Top 3 among the nine hopefuls will earn slots on the CNMI Team. Once the team is selected, training will start mid April.

This year's Micronesian Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

The cost to participate is $950 per athlete/delegate. Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will give $250, leaving athletes to shoulder the remaining $700. The remaining amount is payable in four months, from February to May.

SASC will help triathletes pay for half of the four installment fees or shell out $350. SASC is encouraging those who will make the team to have fundraisers and if they collect more than $350, they should give the surplus to the association. SASC clarified alternates need not to pay $350, unless they are selected as replacements.

The CNMI is hoping to surpass its performance in the triathlon competition of the 2006 Micronesian Games Saipan hosted.

The Commonwealth won silver medals in the men's individual division and team event. In the women's individual division, the CNMI took a bronze medal. The CNMI Team was composed of Natasha Good, Dirk Sharer, Butch Sublemente, Tyce Mister, and Lewie Tenorio.

Guam's Keenan Tydingco took the gold medal in the men's division, downing the CNMI's Sharer and the Marshall Islands' Thomas Cardillo. In the women's division, the Marshall Islands' Laurie Mann finished on top of the field, beating Guam's Tara Tydingco and the CNMI's Good. Guam clocked in at 9:33.07 to top the CNMI (10:08.32) in the team event.

Besides triathlon, 14 other sports are lined up for the 2020 Micro Games: basketball, baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, athletics, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

TRENCH

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Trench Tech, Inc. president and promoter Cuki Alvarez and Trench Tech fighter Sully Stone yesterday morning.

Trench Tech donated $1 each from tickets sold in Fearless to the Haiti relief fund, collecting a total of $300 from gate receipts. The $100 came from the Korean Top Team, which donated a percentage of their purse to the fund.

"The real supporters to the Haiti relief fund were the people who watched ROP 8. We are very thankful to them, as they help Trench Tech become part of a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in Haiti by buying tickets for Fearless. Also, we would like to acknowledge KTT and their fighters for following the lead and donating a portion of their earnings from the fights," Alvarez said.

KTT's Young Nam "The Hippo" Gu, Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang and Hyun Kyu "The Ace" Lim debuted in CNMI MMA on Feb. 12 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. The Koreans challenged Trench Tech fighters and had a 2-1 record in their MMA debut in the Commonwealth.

Chang won by TKO against Fasi "The Quikdraw" Jesse, capitalizing on his height and reach advantage to beat the home bet. The Korean connected on powerful and quick kicks to the body and legs of Jesse, prompting the latter to wave the white flag before the start of the second round.

Hyun Kyu employed the same tactics his teammate used on Jesse to record a similar TKO victory over Slade "The Rage" Adelbai. Referee Tony D' Angelo called off the fight in the 3:10 mark of the first round after Hyun Kyu unleashed a couple of kicks, punches, and knees to Adelbai's face.

KTT's lone loss in the night came in the first main event bout when Chris "No Luv" Laayug won by unanimous decision against Gu in their ground-and-pound bout.

Nine other bouts were featured in ROP 8.

SDA

From Page 28

run is a good start for SDA's goal to get contributions for the scholarship fund.

"We will still accept donations and ask local businesses for contributions to this fund. We are confident that God will provide to make this possible," Perez added.

SDA School would like to thank the following for supporting the fun run: Subway, Island Apparel, Elite Printing, Aqua Resort, Bestseller, Capital Bowling Center, Coral Ocean Point, D'Elegance Café, Hardt Eye Clinic, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Joeten, Marianas Resort and Country Club, Marianas Go-Cart, McDonalds, Modern Stationary, Pacific Islands Club, Pizza Hut, Saipan Bike Pro, Spicy Thai Restaurant, and Thai House Restaurant.

"The business community's generosity has proven that together we can improve our community. We want to give our heartfelt thank you to all sponsors and everyone who came out to join us in the fun run," Perez said.

For donation to the 5K Hope Run Scholarship, please mail to P.O. Box 501063, Saipan, MP, 5010. Make all checks payable to Saipan SDA School and indicate donation for the 5K Hope Run Scholarship fund. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Canada resurgent; Bjoergen wins third gold

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cavs blow past Celtics in 4th, win 108-88

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Rays roll to third straight finals stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's kept its bid for a three-peat alive after escaping with a 57-56 playoff win over Marianas High School in the junior varsity division of the 2009-2010 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League on Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Rays will face the top-seeded Kagman High School in the finals for the third straight time. Southern won the inaugural junior varsity caging after sweeping the 2007-2008 season and defeating the Ayuyus, 115-103. Last season, the Rays prevailed anew against Kagman, 84-63. Kagman gained an outright finals seat after sweeping the regular season this year.

In its bid for a third consecutive finals appearance, Southern bungled an 12-point halftime lead, 29-17, before saving a thrilling one-point victory, as free throw woes prevented the Dolphins from dethroning the Rays.

MHS went only 3-for-14 from the foul line in the last 1:43 of the game, missing chances to foil another Southern-Kagman title showdown.

The Dolphins threatened the Rays after tying the game for the last time, 53-

See RAYS on Page 27

Southern's Nicko Salem goes for a baseline shot against two MHS defenders during their semifinal game in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko in, 9 others to fight for Micro Games berths

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

One woman and nine men have expressed their interest in representing the CNMI to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

XTERRA veteran Mieko Carey is the lone female triathlete to join the list of Micro Games hopefuls and since the CNMI will need only one female entry, she automatically took the spot on the team.

The nine others will vie for five slots. They are Lewie Tenorio, Butch Sublemente, Kieran Daly, Ronald Villafria, Kevin Carey, Joshua Manglona, Matt Mancao, Manny Sitchon, and Brad Ruszala.

Only three will be selected to join Mieko in Palau, however Saipan Adventure Sports Club will pick two

See MIEKO on Page 27

Mieko Carey, seen here cooling off in a local race late last year, will be representing the CNMI to the triathlon competition in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter director John Hirsh, center, receives a $400 check from Trench Tech, Inc. president and promoter Cuki Alvarez, left, and Trench Tech fighter Sully Stone during a turnover ceremony yesterday at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter office along the Airport road.

Trench Tech donates $400 for Haiti relief fund

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As promised, Trench Tech, Inc. donated a portion of the ticket sales from the Rites of Passage 8: Fearless to the Haiti relief fund.

Trench Tech donated a check worth $400 to earthquake-ravaged Haiti through the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. ARC-NMI Chapter director John Hirsh received the donation from

See TRENCH on Page 27

SDA School holds 5K Hope Run

The Seventh Day Adventist School held its first 5K Hope Run on Feb. 15, drawing support not only from runners, but also from various companies on island.

Proceeds from the event will go to School Year 2010-2011 5K Hope Run Scholarship.

"This scholarship is specifically for the kids from our surrounding community. There are a lot of children who will benefit from being in a small school setting, as they will receive the proper nourishment and education they need. We are looking forward to have 10 new students through this scholarship." public relations director Angie Perez.

Perez added the success of the fun

See SDA on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of Seventh Day Adventist School's 5K Hope Run pose for a group photo after the event held last Feb. 15.